

الوقت



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Sudanese riot over shortages

KHARTOUM (R) — Rioters set fire to shops and clashed with police in Sudanese towns to protest at bread and sugar shortages following a nationwide strike last week, local newspapers reported Wednesday. The protesters clashed with police and ran through the town's market burning two pharmacies, a bookshop and other stores, the papers said. They said merchants declared a four-day strike to protest at the attacks and one paper said troops arrived to restore order. Rioters in the central region town of Sennar southeast of Khartoum set fire to town council offices and shops and also clashed with police, the papers said. Last week thousands of people took to the streets in Khartoum and other towns to protest at price rises in sugar and other consumer goods. A nationwide strike began Thursday and the same day the government scrapped the price increases three days after announcing them. Officials blame a bread shortage in Khartoum on lack of transport to bring wheat and flour from Port Sudan on the Red Sea, the country's only port. Press reports said Wednesday that police dispersed small demonstrations in the capital by schoolchildren protesting at the bread shortage.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Gunman kills Saudi diplomat in Bangkok

BANGKOK (R) — A gunman shot a Saudi Arabian diplomat dead in the Thai capital Wednesday. Police told reporters they had no immediate indication of a motive for the pistol-slating of Saleh Al Malki, 35, third secretary at the Saudi embassy. Police said the "Arab looking" killer was apparently known to the victim. Witnesses saw them walking together in Bangkok's modern commercial section before the killing.

'W. Germany flooded with asylum-seekers'

BONN (R) — West Germany is becoming flooded with immigrants claiming political asylum but really looking only to improve their standard of living, Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann said Wednesday. "Our asylum laws are becoming more and more the floodgates for uncontrolled immigration," Zimmermann, one of the most right-wing members of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet, said in a statement. The statement showed 103,076 foreigners applied for asylum in 1988, 80 per cent more than in 1987. More than 29,000 came from Poland, 20,000 from Yugoslavia, 14,000 from Turkey and 7,000 from Iran.

Vanuatu president held in custody

PORT VILLA (AP) — Officials Wednesday ordered President George Sokomanu to remain in custody another week, as impeachment proceedings against him were postponed because of a cyclone, said diplomats and news reports. Sokomanu, who has filled the largely ceremonial post in the South Pacific island chain since 1980, is charged with inciting mutiny after a power struggle last month during which he attempted to replace Prime Minister Walter Lini. The charge carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Bhutto to make pilgrimage

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit Saudi Arabia next week on a religious pilgrimage, her first foreign trip since taking office last month, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. A ministry spokesman said the visit from Jan. 10-11 was purely for a pilgrimage to Mecca. "It will not be an official visit," he said. It was not immediately known if Bhutto, who took office on Dec. 2 as the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country, would meet Saudi leaders during the trip.

Moscow orders hospital trains to Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Three hospital trains will be sent to earthquake-stricken areas of Armenia to improve medical services to survivors, TASS news agency said Wednesday. The report indicated medical care was still insufficient after the Dec. 7 quake disaster. Previous reports have said the tremor destroyed or damaged most medical facilities in the area, and the seriously wounded were evacuated.

Turkish deputy prime minister resigns

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem resigned Wednesday, the latest victim of multi-million dollar banking scandal, Anatolian news agency reported. Erdem, a long-time aide to Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, told the agency reasons for his resignation included "developments after one of our newspapers published a story." Erdem, 60, filed a law suit against the mass-circulation Hurriyet newspaper in December after it linked him to an \$80 million banking fraud. Ozal told the agency that he had accepted Erdem's resignation with regret.

UNESCO launches fund for Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — UNESCO, the United Nations cultural agency, launched an international campaign Wednesday to raise \$14 million to preserve Ethiopian historical landmarks. UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor said the agency wanted to restore 13th century churches at Lalibela which were hewn out of solid rock. UNESCO will also work on 17th century castles of Gondar, the old imperial capital, and on Stela at Tiya and at the ancient city of Axum.

Gandhi killer, plotter to hang Friday

NEW DELHI (R) — The Sikh assassin of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and a former civil servant convicted of plotting the killing will be hanged Friday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Wednesday. It quoted Rajinder Singh, son of convicted conspirator Kehar Singh, as saying he had been told the date by jail officials. Rajinder Singh said his father and assassin Satwant Singh would both go to the gallows Friday (See earlier story on page 8).

France to ease naturalisation process

PARIS (R) — France said Tuesday it would make it easier for foreigners to gain French nationality by halving the two-year delay before applications are dealt with and reducing red tape. Health Minister Claude Evrin said in a statement many immigrant workers were eligible for French citizenship but were being discouraged by "the excessively long procedure." Evrin said the new measure was being introduced under President Francois Mitterrand's proposals to improve the position of foreigners living in France.

ICRC seeks Arab support in Lebanon

GENEVA (AP) — Andre Pasquier, a senior official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is in Libya in the efforts to seek Arab assurances for resuming its humanitarian operations in Lebanon suspended last month following threats, an ICRC spokesman said Wednesday. Libyan Television reported Tuesday night that the official and the chief ICRC delegate in Tunis were received by Muammar Qadhafi and said the Libyan leader pledged to use his influence to ensure the protection of Red Cross workers there.

Bandits free Bhutto servants

LARKANA, Pakistan (R) — Kidnappers have freed two farm workers employed by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto without any ransom being paid, aides said Wednesday. They said the two men seized last month were released Tuesday. Their family refused to pay a ransom of one million rupees (\$54,000) to the kidnappers, who also demanded money for bandits in prison. Newspaper reports said the kidnappers had been under pressure from police who had surrounded their jungle hideout. Four men were kidnapped by five masked gunmen in 19 days ago from Bhutto's farm near Larkana, her home town in Sindh. Two were released soon afterwards with a message to Bhutto demanding a general amnesty and the ransom.

U.S. urges Greece to extradite suspect

WASHINGTON (R) — Eleven U.S. congressmen Tuesday introduced a resolution urging Greece to extradite a Palestinian indicted in the United States for a 1982 airline bombing. The United States has asked for the extradition of Mohammad Basili on charges stemming from the bombing of a Trans World Airlines jet in which one person was killed and more than a dozen passengers injured. Representative Larry Smith, a Florida Democrat, said he drafted the resolution because of Greece's recent decision not to extradite another suspect, Abdul Al Zomar, to Italy. If passed by the House of Representatives, the resolution they would be sent to the Senate for action.



Crown Prince on private visit

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarwat Wednesday left Amman on a private visit to Austria and Switzerland. During the visit, Prince Hassan will meet with senior officials in both countries. Upon departure, they were seen off by His Majesty King Hussein, royal family members and senior officials (Petra photo)

British leader steps up pressure on Israel

RIYADH (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Wednesday stepped up pressure on Israel to respond positively to Palestinian peace overtures rejected by the Zionist state. In the keynote speech of a nine-day Gulf tour, Howetold an audience of Saudi Arabian and British businessmen: "The people of Israel should take care not to miss the opportunity which now presents itself."

At the start of his trip in Kuwait Monday, Howe urged Israel to respond positively to declarations recognising Israel's existence and renouncing terrorism by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat last month. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens dismissed Howe's call and Middle East peace initiatives made by the European Economic Community.

In the Saudi capital, Howe said: "The Palestinians have recognised that negotiations, not violence, offer the only road forward." Calling this significant progress he added: "The Israelis must be ready to explore Palestinian intentions rather than denounce them. They must demonstrate their good faith."

"Now is the time for them to acknowledge that a significant and positive move has been made which requires a constructive response."

He also urged the PLO to maintain its new stance. "Forty years of suspicion and hatred on both sides are not banished by a few statements. It is vital that the Palestinians sustain their present course and continue to demonstrate their commitment to peace."

British officials said later that Saudi officials backed Howe's stand on the need for an Israeli response during talks which focused on the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

They said Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told Howe that, after 40 years of Israel's existence, Arab patience with the Zionist state was at an end and there must be an Israeli answer to the PLO's latest declaration.

The British foreign secretary also met Defence Minister Prince Sultan before flying to Dhahran. In his wide-ranging speech, Howe also urged the release of foreign hostages held by political groups in Lebanon.

"They have endured for far too long a personal anguish which we can barely imagine. We call on those holding the hostages to release them from their ordeal."

Banners proclaimed support for the Palestinians, their independent state and an international conference on Middle East peace under U.N. auspices.

Ahmad Al Amawi, president of the Egyptian Workers' Federation, urged a united Arab stand to boost the uprising and spur an international conference.

Meanwhile, prominent Palestinians and left-wing Israelis announced Wednesday they would meet Israeli legislators and PLO members in New York to boost the Middle East peace process.

Hanna Siniora, editor of the left Israeli magazine New Outlook, said the conference in March would be part of a joint Arab-Jewish campaign to foster talks between Israel and the PLO.

U.S. navy shoots down 2 Libyan jet fighters

LONDON (Agencies) — U.S. navy jet fighters shot down two Libyan MiG-23 fighters with missiles over the Mediterranean Wednesday and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi vowed to meet the incident with a challenge of his own.

Libya also called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council over the incident. The request was contained in a letter handed to council President Razali Ismail of Malaysia by Libyan deputy U.N. Representative Ali Sunni Muntasser.

Qadhafi accused the United States of terrorism for shooting down the aircraft. "In spite of the increase in official American terrorism... the revolutionaries of great Libya will not bow their heads and will not abandon their principles and objectives," Qadhafi said in a statement carried by the Libyan news agency JANA.

"They will meet challenge with challenge," Qadhafi said in the statement monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. "If America has prevailed because it is a superpower in the air and the sea, it will inevitably be defeated on land. We, as well as the fish, are awaiting them," he said.

The air battle was the first military U.S.-Libyan encounter between the United States and Libya since American jets bombed Tripoli, the Libyan capital, in 1986.

Deputy White House Press Secretary Roman Popadiuk, in California with vacationing President Reagan, said two F-14 aircraft from the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy "were threatened while conducting routine operations in international airspace north of Tobruk," a Libyan port.

He said that after the shooting, the F-14s returned safely to the ship and two parachutes from the downed Libyan aircraft were sighted.

"There were no reported U.S. injuries," he said. "The Libyan aircraft approached the U.S. aircraft in a hostile manner over international waters, and the U.S. aircraft, acting in self-defence, fired air-to-air missiles, downing both of the Libyan aircraft," Popadiuk said.

Libyan radio reported that the Foreign Ministry said U.S. planes shot down two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft Wednesday in a "premeditated attack."

"At 1103 hours (1003 GMT) while two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft were carrying out a patrol over international waters, U.S. aircraft carried out a premeditated attack on them and shot them down," the radio said, quoting a statement by the Foreign Ministry in Tripoli.

Defence Department spokesman said the incident occurred about 40 miles north of the northeast coast of Libya over international waters and that the Kennedy was about 60 miles to the north of where the clash occurred.

Officials noted the site was not in the Gulf of Sirte, an expanse of water off Libya's coast further to the west where U.S.-Libyan tensions have flared in the past.

Giving the U.S. viewpoint on the backdrop to the aerial clash, Pentagon officials said Libyan pilots had been growing bolder in recent days and were investigating U.S. reconnaissance planes at least 60 miles north of the Libyan coast.

Arafat demands Israeli response

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Wednesday he might quit his drive to end the Arab-Israeli conflict unless Israel reciprocated.

"I will continue to offer peace, not out of weakness but out of strength," Arafat said. "If they do not accept peace, I have the courage to go back to the Palestine National Council (PNC) and tell them there is no use."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman was speaking at a celebration organised by Egypt's General Federation of Workers to mark the 24th anniversary of the Palestine nationalist movement and the first anniversary last month of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Arafat, on his fourth visit to Cairo since the PNC announced an independent Palestinian state in November, earlier met President Hosni Mubarak. No details of the talks were disclosed.

The PLO leader received a standing ovation from the crowd of about 1,000 union members, politicians and Cairo-based Palestinians packed in a conference hall.

He vowed that the uprising would continue "wave after wave until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem, its walls, minarets and churches."

A group of Egyptian workers sang in praise of the uprising. One song declared "every stone is a rifle."

Banners proclaimed support for the Palestinians, their independent state and an international conference on Middle East peace under U.N. auspices.

Ahmad Al Amawi, president of the Egyptian Workers' Federation, urged a united Arab stand to boost the uprising and spur an international conference.

Meanwhile, prominent Palestinians and left-wing Israelis announced Wednesday they would meet Israeli legislators and PLO members in New York to boost the Middle East peace process.

Hanna Siniora, editor of the left Israeli magazine New Outlook, said the conference in March would be part of a joint Arab-Jewish campaign to foster talks between Israel and the PLO.

"The significance of the conference is that this is a joint effort for the first time by Palestinians and Israelis to promote dialogue and actually give the way for peace," Siniora told a news conference in Arab Jerusalem.

Palestinian killed in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed a 16-year-old Palestinian and wounded three Palestinian boys in clashes in two Gaza Strip refugee camps Wednesday, hospital officials said.

Wednesday's worst clashes erupted in the Gaza Strip refugee camp Deir Al Balah, reporters said. Palestinians hurled stones at an army patrol, and troops opened fire, killing Nasser Nasser, said officials at the Camp's U.N. clinic.

A 15-year-old from Deir Al Balah was seriously wounded in the chest during the clash, said officials at Gaza City's Ahli hospital. The youth was later transferred to a Jerusalem hospital.

In the nearby Nuseirat camp, two teenagers were wounded in a stone-throwing clash with troops, officials said.

The death brought to 355 the number of Palestinians killed since the uprising began 13 months ago.

An Israeli military court in the Gaza Strip sentenced three Palestinians to 14 years in prison Tuesday for allegedly attacking soldiers and belonging to clandestine committees directing the Palestinian uprising.

The court said that the Palestinians, all residents of the Jabalya refugee camp, participated in a number of anti-Israeli activities, including firebomb attacks on soldiers and distribution of underground leaflets calling for strikes.

The harsh court sentences came one day after lawyers who defend Palestinian nationalists in the West Bank said they would boycott military courts for one month, saying the army violated Israeli and international judicial conventions.

Earlier Tuesday, Israeli troops demolished two houses in Jabalya to punish Palestinians suspected of attacking troops and pro-Israeli collaborators, an army spokesman said.

It was the second time in two days the army had destroyed the homes of prisoners who have not been tried or convicted of any offence.

In the West Bank, soldiers shot and wounded one Palestinian in the town of Al Bireh after Palestinians threw stones during an army search-and-arrest operation, an army spokesman said.

Palestinians said Jewish settlers rode into Al Bireh on three buses Tuesday night and threw stones at Arab homes until troops intervened.

Palestinians reported that soldiers beat three Nablus residents who refused to clean a rooftop army lookout. The three Palestinians were treated in hospital for their injuries, hospital officials said.

Palestinians hurled stones and iron pellets at two Israeli buses in Nablus, smashing windows but causing no injuries, army radio reported.

King Hassan, Polisario team open talks in Marrakesh

MARRAKESH (R) — King Hassan II of Morocco opened talks Wednesday with senior Polisario Front guerrillas in their first direct contact since the Western Sahara war began nearly 13 years ago.

Front spokesman Mahfoud Abdul Fattah, contacted in Algiers by telephone, said the three-man Polisario delegation met the king in the royal palace at Marrakesh for about 90 minutes.

He could give no details of the topics discussed but said it was possible the talks would continue.

The delegation led by the Polisario's chief negotiator Bachir Mustapha Sayed arrived from Algiers in Marrakesh late Tuesday.

The Moroccan Information Ministry said in a statement the talks were devoted to "the situation prevailing at present in our southern provinces in view of the referendum which has been decided."

The official Algerian news agency APS said the meeting was held in a good atmosphere and further talks would follow.

APS said those attending included Ahmad Reda Guedira, King Hassan's principal political adviser, and Interior and Information Minister Driss Basri.

The other members of the Polisario delegation were Mahfoud Ali Beiba, "prime minister" of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), and Ibrahim Ghali, the SADR "defence minister."

The meeting has been hailed by diplomats in North Africa as a major breakthrough in the long-running desert war.

The talks were expected to focus on details of a U.N. plan to end the war by offering inhabitants of the disputed territory a referendum on integration with Morocco or independence.

North African analysts, however, suggested both sides could be working towards a political solution — to be endorsed later by popular vote — which would avoid creating obvious losers and winners.

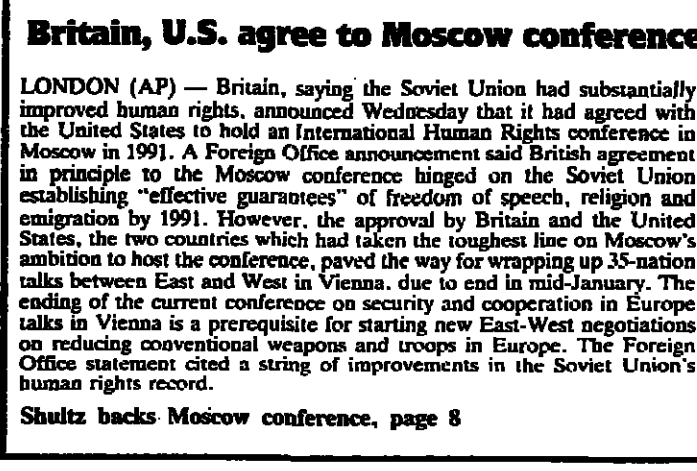
They noted a senior envoy of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, Abdul Hamid Mehri, secretary-general of the ruling National Liberation Front party, arrived in Morocco a few days before the Polisario mission with a special message for the king.

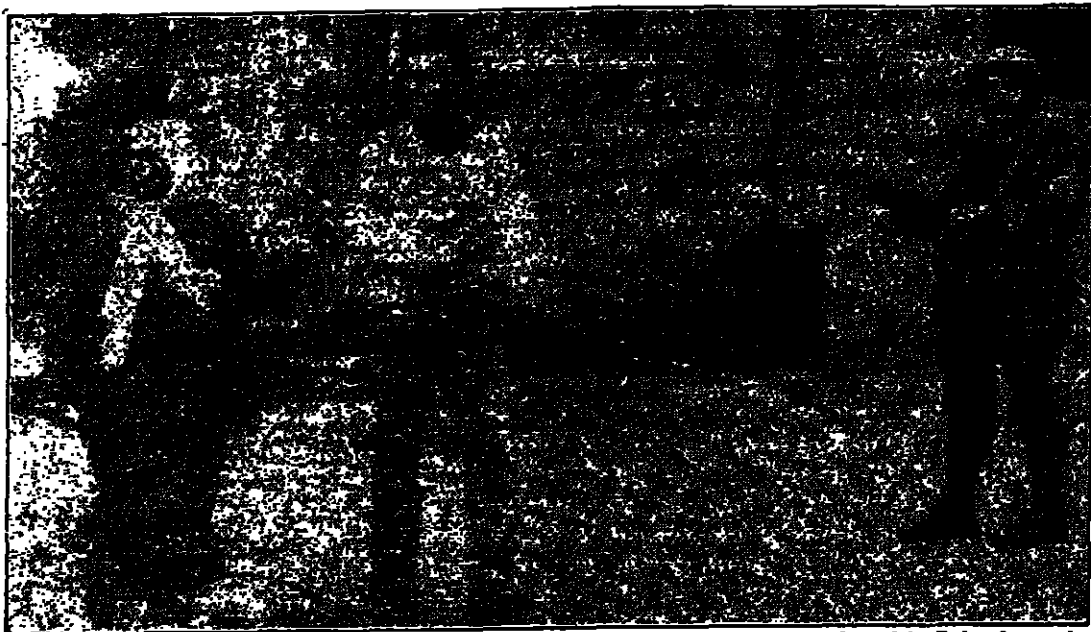
Benjedid, whose country has long been Polisario's main supporter, is keen on better economic links with his neighbour and last May restored diplomatic ties with Rabat severed over the conflict in 1976.

Britain, U.S. agree to Moscow conference

LONDON (AP) — Britain, saying the Soviet Union had substantially improved human rights, announced Wednesday that it had agreed with the United States to hold an international human rights conference in Moscow in 1991. A Foreign Office announcement said British agreement in principle to the Moscow conference hinged on the Soviet Union establishing "effective guarantees" of freedom of speech, religion and emigration by 1991. However, the approval by Britain and the United States, the two countries which had taken the toughest line on Moscow's ambition to host the conference, paved the way for wrapping up 35-nation talks between East and West in Vienna, due to end in mid-January. The ending of the current conference on security and cooperation in Europe talks in Vienna is a prerequisite for starting new East-West negotiations on reducing conventional weapons and troops in Europe. The Foreign Office statement cited a string of improvements in the Soviet Union's human rights record.

Shultz backs Moscow conference, page 8





A Lebanese woman and her son, taking advantage of a lull in the fight between rival militiamen, scurry home after buying bread in Beirut's southern suburbs as a Syrian soldier looks on.

Syrian troops disengage warring gunmen in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops moved into embattled neighbourhoods in south Beirut overnight and separated rival militias locked in a bloody battle for mastery of their community, police said Wednesday.

As the confrontation tapered off in the capital's southern slums, the two warring factions, Hizbullah (Party of God) and Amal, also held their fire in South Lebanon's Iqlim Al Tuffah (apple province).

But the undeclared truce was unlikely to hold for long unless a political settlement is quickly arranged to end the bloody power struggle that has raged intermittently in Beirut and South Lebanon for nine months, officials warned.

The Shiite community's mufti said in a statement: "The only solution is to disarm the (two) militias."

"Their weapons have become tools for killing children and other innocent people," Sheikh Abdul Amir Qabalan said.

By police count, 29 people were killed and 60 wounded in

the latest five-day clash.

"No one should be allowed to possess weapons in south Beirut except the Syrian forces," Qabalan said.

The Syrians, who have had some 4,500 troops in south Beirut since the first round of Hizbullah-Amal fighting last year, redeployed during the night.

Soldiers, wearing helmets and either toting AK-47 automatic rifles or carrying on their shoulders rocket-propelled grenade launchers, quietly entered contested neighbourhoods and began tearing down sandbag barricades the militiamen had erected when this round of fighting began on New Year's Eve, a police spokesman said.

The spokesman said the soldiers manned "narrow" buffer zones separating the combatants as their officers, using loudspeakers, ordered the militiamen to "withdraw from the streets and remove military manifestations."

"Several sand-bagged positions were removed before dawn. Several gunmen withdrew from the streets. But they gathered at entrances to buildings or basements," said the spokesman.

Security sources said Amal militiamen and Hizbullah fighters stayed in their positions, but

there were no reports of fighting since Tuesday night.

A Syrian officer told Reuters his troops patrolled the battle zones and that rival gunmen were asked to withdraw from the Hajaj, Chiyah and Ghobeiri areas.

He said the suburbs had returned to normal because both Amal and Hizbullah "were cooperating and helped us secure peace in the area."

A security source said Tuesday none of the terms of an accord reached between Amal and Hizbullah and sponsored by Syrian officers had been met.

"Neither the barricades were removed nor (did) the militias withdraw from the streets," the source said.

"There are no contacts now among members of the security committee entrusted with putting an end to the fighting. Fighting could erupt any moment," the source said.

In South Lebanon, security sources said sporadic exchanges of mortar and artillery fire eased but tension was high.

They said sniping was reported in the villages of Jbal Safi, Jarjouch, Louwazeh and Ain Buswar in the Iqlim Al Tuffah area, 60 kilometres south of Beirut on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Vorontsov links Afghan pullout to rebel acceptance of ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The Soviet Union's deputy foreign minister warned Wednesday that an estimated 50,000 Soviet soldiers may stay in Afghanistan beyond a Feb. 15 withdrawal deadline if fighting there continues.

"If a ceasefire holds and there is no fighting in Afghanistan, then that's a very good situation for Soviet forces to leave," Yuli Vorontsov told a news conference at Islamabad international airport.

He was in Pakistan's capital for talks on the formation of a new government in Afghanistan.

Afghan rebels headquartered in Pakistan have refused to accept a ceasefire while the People's Democratic Party (PDA) of Afghanistan remained in power in Kabul.

When asked if Soviet troops might stay beyond the Feb. 15 deadline for their withdrawal, Vorontsov said, "We shall see... I don't know."

Vorontsov, who also is the Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, later met with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Pakistan has been one of the major allies of the rebels fighting the Soviet-backed communists in Afghanistan for the past 10 years.

Vorontsov said he hoped the rebels would change their minds about rejecting the ceasefire.

"It's pity they are saying that, because it is their country and if they are not going to observe the ceasefire that means they are going to continue killing their own citizens," he said.

"We hope that they will change their mind."

Vorontsov left Tehran Tuesday after two rounds of talks with an Iran-based Afghan guerrilla alliance.

He also met former Afghan King Zahir Shah in Rome last month and invited him to join

talks for a broad-based government to take over after the Soviet withdrawal.

Several rebel groups say Zahir Shah, living in exile in the Italian capital after a 1973 coup, can have no role in the future Afghan government.

"Actually he is in a way an important figure for some of the Afghans, some of the Mujahedeen and some of the refugees," Vorontsov said of the ex-king.

"So we wanted to know his views and his intentions."

Vorontsov acknowledged that a new government will have to be established in Kabul, but he predicted the ruling Marxists would survive. The party is "willing to participate in the creation of a broad-based government," he said.

The rebel groups, while divided on many issues, are united in their opposition to allowing Afghanistan's President Najibullah and his party to hold a role in a post-war Kabul government.

Vorontsov said it was "a big mistake" for the rebels to claim

that Afghanistan's communist government will collapse without Soviet help. "That's wishful thinking," he said.

He denied a statement by rebel leader Burhanuddin Rabbani that Moscow was ready to abandon Najibullah's government.

"The Soviets are prepared to recognise a broad-based government. That means there will be a change of government, from this one to another one. Maybe that is what Rabbani had in his mind."

Vorontsov said no further talks have been scheduled with the Mujahedeen. When asked if he would meet with the rebels during his four days in Islamabad, he said: "It depends on the Mujahedeen representatives. They were not ready... before I came here, to continue the talks."

But the new chairman of the rebels, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, told a news conference Tuesday that he expected to meet with Vorontsov Friday.

Mujahedeen sources, asking not to be identified, said some

members of the rebel alliance opposed additional meetings with the Soviets.

Mojaddidi said the alliance agreed this week to form a council to select an interim Afghan government. Each of the guerrilla groups will nominate 60 people to this council, he said.

Within the rebel alliance, some leaders are concerned about disagreements among themselves.

"We haven't agreed on anything. Everything is shaky," said Azim Nasser-Zia, a spokesman for the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan which supports a government led by the former Afghan king.

But Nasser-Zia said his group, like the other six in the alliance, is committed to fighting Najibullah's government until it is toppled.

"We won't stop fighting against the Kabul regime but we have promised them (Soviets) we will let them leave," said Nasser-Zia. "He (Vorontsov) shouldn't bother what we do with Kabul."

U.S. officials refuse to rule out attack on Libya

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Defence officials said Tuesday that 13 U.S. warships headed for the Mediterranean were on routine deployment, but they refused to rule out any attack against an alleged chemical weapons plant in Libya.

"I am not going to speculate in that area (a possible attack) at all," Defence Department spokesman Dan Howard told reporters in response to questions.

Howard repeated Pentagon statements that deployment of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt from Norfolk, Virginia, with 12 support ships last Friday had been scheduled for some time as a replacement for the carrier John F. Kennedy battle group in the Mediterranean.

But he declined to say how long the overlap might be between the expected arrival of the Roosevelt group later this month and the departure of the Kennedy.

The United States has charged that Libya is building a plant capable of producing chemical weapons, a charge denied by Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi.

President Reagan last month refused to rule out an attack on the new facility 80 kilometres southwest of Tripoli. Libya says it is a pharmaceutical factory.

Navy Commander Mel Sundin, a Pentagon spokesman, told Reuters that the Kennedy battle group, which comprises about a dozen ships of the 23-ship U.S. force now in the Mediterranean, had been in the region since last August and it was

about time to end the group's six-month deployment.

Italian concern

Italian newspapers and politicians have billed the arrival of the battle group in the Mediterranean as a direct threat to Libya.

Italian newspapers are giving the armada front-page coverage along with talk of a possible U.S. air strike on Libya.

"Objective Libya," read the leading headline in La Repubblica, a Rome-based national daily.

"Super U.S. aircraft carrier ready to attack Qadhafi," it continued.

Politicians also expressed concern.

"The scenario of the American military threat against Libya is totally similar to that of three years ago when, in April 1986, U.S. planes bombed Tripoli and Benghazi," said Mario Capanna, a leader of Italy's small far-left Proletarian Democrat Party.

The Italian Foreign Ministry, trying to defuse talk of military action, has said the Libyan plant should be discussed at the international chemical weapons conference that opens Saturday in Paris.

Vatican Radio said Tuesday that the dispatch of the Roosevelt fleet had provoked fears of a new U.S. conflict with Libya.

In its daily commentary on international affairs, the radio described the situation as delicate and echoed calls from Italian officials for caution.

Greek Cypriot leaders agree in principle on reunification strategy

NICOSIA (AP) — Greek Cypriot political leaders Tuesday wrapped up five days of talks with an agreement in principle on future strategy for settling the Cyprus problem.

But disagreements remained over tactics for the next round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks with the Turkish Cypriot side on reunifying the war-divided Mediterranean island, they said.

President George Vassiliou, elected last February as an independent and political newcomer, held the unprecedented strategy session with the leaders of the four main parties — right-wing DYSY, centrist DIKO, communist AKEL and socialist EDEK.

A communiqué issued afterward said the discussions were "substantive and constructive."

"Unanimity emerged on the substance of the Cyprus problem..." it said.

The communiqué said the party leaders also agreed on "the role of Greece and the interna-

tional factor and... their utilisation," in the peace process.

"Strategy and immediate tactics were also discussed, and while each party reserved its positions on specific issues, there was agreement on the principles on which our side will depend during the second phase of the negotiations beginning Jan. 9," it said.

Vassiliou and Rauf Denktaş, head of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot mini-state established in Turkish north Cyprus, will resume their talks that day.

The two failed to make progress during the first phase of their talks which ended in November. The talks were the first face-to-face negotiations between the two sides in nearly three years.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who met the two leaders in New York last month for a progress review, proposed they should submit alternative options on all issues during the second phase.

Vassiliou told reporters after the strategy session that the alternative options to be submitted "will not diverge from basic principles."

He said those principles include the right of all Cypriots to travel, work, settle and own property anywhere on the island.

The Turkish side rejects the right of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to return to their homes in the north.

Former President Spyros Kyprianou, head of the centrist DIKO Party, and socialist leader Vassos Lyssarides told reporters they support recourse to the United Nations and breaking off the talks if there is no progress by March, when the second negotiating period is due to end.

But Vassiliou said he was against "taking a stand on hypothetical developments" and would evaluate the situation when he and Denktaş confer with Perez de Cuellar again in March.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Al Akhbar shrugs off Israeli objection

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Al Akhbar newspaper, responding to Israeli anger at its suggestion that Israel might have blown up a U.S. airliner, said Wednesday the dispute would not affect relations between the countries. Israel told Egypt Monday that an Al Akhbar editorial about the Pan Am Boeing-747 blown up by a bomb over Scotland two weeks ago, killing 270 people, could poison relations between the two states. "Al Akhbar confirms that the publication does not poison Israeli-Egyptian relations," Wednesday's front-page commentary said. "The stubbornness of some Israeli elements with the Palestinians and the rejection of their rights is what poisons relations."

Final Taba border marker placed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli and Egyptian teams Wednesday laid the final marker designating the border between the two countries, but a foreign ministry official said the future of the disputed Red Sea resort Taba was still open to negotiations. The teams placed border marker No. 91 on a hilltop about 150 metres from the Gulf of Aqaba, overlooking Taba, a one-square-kilometre resort with a luxury hotel and holiday village in the southern Sinai peninsula. Egypt argues that the border should continue in a straight line to the sea, thus placing Taba under Egyptian sovereignty. But Israeli officials claim the final 150 metres of the border and Taba's future must be negotiated. "Until there is some final agreement, this portion of territory will remain under Israeli control," said foreign ministry spokesman Moti Amichai.

Gorbachev meets Khomeini envoy

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev met a personal envoy from Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini Wednesday, TASS news agency reported. Gorbachev received Ayatollah Abdullah Javadi Amoli in the Kremlin, TASS said. It said Alexander Yakovlev, chairman of the ruling Politburo's Commission on International Affairs, was also present. TASS gave no details of the meeting. On

'Maghreb summit due this month in Morocco'

RABAT (R) — Heads of state from five Maghreb countries will hold their first formal summit in Morocco this month to consider unity plans, a Moroccan newspaper said Tuesday. The pro-government daily Maroc Soir said they would meet in the southern city of Marrakesh but gave no date.

UAE upgrades PLO mission

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Wednesday it had decided to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office as an embassy, the official news agency WAM reported. "Out of its firm belief in the legitimate Palestinian rights and support for the PLO..." the UAE decided to consider the PLO office an embassy of the State of Palestine and the PLO representative ambassador as of tomorrow," WAM quoted a responsible source at the UAE Foreign Ministry as saying.

Indirect contacts between U.S., S. Yemen

LONDON (R) — South Yemeni President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas was quoted Wednesday as saying his country and the United States had made indirect contacts to restore diplomatic relations. Responding to a question by the Saudi-owned newspaper Asharq Al Awsat, he said: "There are indeed such contacts." The newspaper quoted him from Aden as saying the contacts were indirect, but he declined to reveal who the third party was. Asked if he expected quick results, Attas told the newspaper: "Let us be optimistic... the United States is a big country and, along with the Soviet Union, one of the two strongest countries in the world. South Yemen is keen to have good relations with all nations of the world." Relations between the two countries were cut in 1969.

U.S. voices concern on expulsions

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it was very concerned about Israel's expulsion of 13 Palestinians from the occupied territories and said the move would only increase tensions.

Israel flew the 13 by helicopter into Lebanon Sunday, saying they were leaders of the year-old uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We have repeatedly voiced our opposition to the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories. As a strong friend of Israel, we are greatly concerned about these most recent expulsions," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a news briefing Tuesday.

"Deportations are an unacceptable practice... they are counterproductive... instead of enhancing Israel's security, deportations increase Palestinian resentment and add to tensions," he said.

"If individuals are accused of... criminal acts, they should be afforded full and public judicial process to defend themselves against any charges. If found guilty, they should be punished appropriately."

Arabs to teach medicine in Arabic

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab universities plan to stop teaching medical courses in European languages and switch to Arabic in a bid to recapture the golden age of Islamic science.

Syrian Health Minister Iyad Shatti said teaching in English, French and Italian would be phased out in several countries over the next 10 years.

"The scientific glories of Arabs which started in the ninth century began only after they absorbed the sciences in their own language, when numerous books were translated into Arabic," he said in an interview.

"We hope that one day we will have an international Arab medicine and become again a source for scientific inventions like those of our ancestors."

The plan was adopted by ministers of health, education and planning from Egypt and most other Arab states after a seminar held in Damascus early this month, he said.

Deans of medical faculties and colleges in most Arab countries urged at the seminar that all medical teaching be in Arabic by 1999.

Shatti said the plan recognised the role played by Arabic in linking the heritage and culture of all Arab states.

He said colonisers imposed

teaching in English in Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Sudan. French was introduced in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Italian in Somalia and Turkish in Syria.

"The decision was not an Arab decision," Shatti said. "It was an unjust colonial decision."

He said an Egyptian medical school began teaching in Arabic in 1826 but Britain made it change to English in 1882.

The American University in Beirut taught in Arabic when it opened in 1866 and one of its professors, Christopher van Dick, wrote the first book in Arabic on pathology, Shatti said. But it too later changed to teaching in English.

In Syria, a school for teaching medicine in Turkish opened by Turkish rulers in 1903 switched to Arabic in 1919.

A return to Arabic did not mean a rejection of other languages, Shatti said. "Our insistence on teaching medicine in Arabic is coupled with an insistence on teaching... a foreign language (to) our students."

Arabic had a flexibility and rich vocabulary that made it appropriate for medicinal terms, he said.

Shatti said the changeover to Arabic was encouraged by the Arab League and the World Health Organisation.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

18:30 Koran
18:50 Programme review
19:00 Children's programme
19:15 Local programme
19:30 Programme on Jordan
19:45 News summary
19:55 World Reports
20:00 Local programme
20:15 "Alpha"
20:30 Health programme
20:45 Programme review
20:55 News in Arabic
21:00 Programme on the Press
21:15 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Programme on Islamic art
22:00 News summary in Arabic
22:10 Film (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 La Baby Sitter
18:30 La chance aux diables
19:00 News in French
19:15 La vie en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Beauty and the Beast

PRAYER TIMES

22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 626441
Rescue 626441
Rescue Police 192-621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 77303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 662279
The Islamic, Ashabi 666127/37
AJ Abi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN: Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 420 / 300
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammar) 300 / 250
Beans 420 / 400
Broad beans 750 / 650
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrots 220 / 200
Cauliflower 200 / 140
Cucumbers 350 / 300
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant (large) 80 / 50
Eggplant (small) 120 / 120
Grape 300 / 250
Grapefruit 160 / 120
Lemon 200 / 150

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:20 Children's programme
11:20 Religious programme
11:30 Friday's prayer
12:30 Religious programme
12:50 Religious seminar
13:20 Sports programme
14:00 Football match
14:30 The world around us
14:50 Feature film

PRAYER TIMES

17:30 Message from Oman
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:20 Local programme
19:25 Local programme
19:40 News in Arabic
20:00 Programme review
20:15 News in Arabic
20:30 Local programme
20:45 Varieties
21:00 News in English
21:10 Variety programme (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:15 Children's cartoon
17:30 French feature film
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Charles in Charge
20:45 Then Air
21:00 Falcon Crest
21:10 Three's Company

JTV begins weekly news service for hearing impaired

By Rania Alalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As of 6:00 p.m. this evening, Jordan Television (JTV) will start a weekly programme aimed at conveying national and world news to members of the hearing-impaired community in Jordan.

A sign language expert, Hind, will be "signing" the news while a news presenter reads the events in Arabic. The programme will start with a three or four item news summary, followed by background news summarizing up events of the week, according to JTV's News Director Ibrahim Shazadah.

Members of Jordan's hearing-impaired community feel that the airing of the weekly news programme is a victory for them. They have been working for it for a long time.

Still, some do not know exactly what to expect. "I have never known what news are and what they mean... For me, news have always meant images that move," Sabri, deaf since the age of two, said. "Now I will be able to know why these images are moving."

Shazadah said that for the

past few months JTV staff members have been rehearsing for the programme which is aimed at acquainting members of the deaf community with world and national news.

The airing of the programme will also serve to draw the public's attention to the cause of the hearing impaired in Jordan and to their right in gaining access to information.

Shazadah said the National Speech and Hearing Centre, recently established by the Ministry of Health, had an instrumental role in getting the programme off the ground. Sources at the centre estimates that 2,000 to 3,000 hearing impaired persons will benefit from the weekly programme.

Last month, the first batch of hearing impaired Jordanians were allowed to apply for driving licences after rules governing driving regulations for the hearing impaired were amended.

One member of the deaf community described that as a "big step" for the country's hearing impaired. "Being treated (by law) as an equal to any other person is something we had been after for a long time," he said.

Cabinet endorses cultural agreement with China

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday endorsed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural agreement between Jordan and China and authorised Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan to sign the documents on behalf of the Jordanian government.

China's ambassador to Jordan Zhang Zhen will sign for his government, according to a cabinet statement Wednesday. Under the agreement the two sides will exchange publications and cultural material as well as visits by delegations to look into cultural, social and artistic activities in either country.

They will also exchange visits by folk troupes and offer scholarships for students to study sciences, agriculture, engineering and medicine. The two sides will also organise lectures and scientific seminars.

The agreement provides for cooperation in radio and televi-

sion programmes and other information media and the exchange of programmes for children, news and press reports by the national news agencies in China and Jordan.

According to the agreement the two sides will cooperate in sports-related fields through exchanging visits by trainers and visits by sports officials to examine facilities and benefit from experiences.

Also Wednesday, the cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to the Arab League Organisation for Agricultural Development board meeting which is due to convene in Damascus on Jan. 16.

The delegation to the meeting will be led by Minister of Agriculture Yusef Hamdan Al Jabr who said that the coming meeting was expected to discuss coordination among member countries in matters dealing with desert locusts which is now invading Arab countries including Jordan.

Exchange company closed for violating currency laws

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has ordered the closure of the Saudi Exchange Company, a local money changing firm, for a period of six months as of Jan. 3, 1989 for violating currency regulations.

A CBJ official said in a statement that the firm was found by the customs authorities trying to smuggle JD 200,000 and some Arab currency at the Queen Alia International Airport last week.

without prior approval for taking money out of the country.

"The whole amount has been confiscated and the firm will be closed for six months for violating Jordanian law," the official said.

He noted that the firm had been fined a total of JD 9,000 for trying to smuggle out of the country JD 26,000 in Jordanian currency and unspecified amounts in foreign currency on three previous occasions in the past year.

Seminar discusses treatment of natural disaster victims

IRBID (Petra) — A two-day seminar on medical treatment for victims of natural disasters Wednesday began at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid.

The seminar was organised by the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in cooperation with Princess Basma Hospital.

Dr. Sa'd Hijazi, Dr. Mohammad Al Takriri, and Dr. Shukri Al Shami from the Faculty of Medicine discussed teaching medicine and development of health care during the past two decades, in addition to the seminars and conferences which were held in Jordan on medical treatment for victims of natural disasters.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madangheh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of historical photos and documents at Al Ahli Club which exhibits photos for the late King Abdullah and His Majesty King Hussein besides exhibiting documentary photos and films on Al Ahli Club.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroidery, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Al-Ahli Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Inherit the Wind" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Wednesday receives the visiting Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs delegation in Amman (Petra photo)

Jordanian, Turkish officials discuss services for pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A senior Turkish official in charge of religious affairs now on a visit to Jordan had meetings here Wednesday with Jordanian officials to discuss visits by Turkish Muslims to holy places in Jordan, and arrangements for the pilgrims stay in Jordan en route to the holy places in Saudi Arabia.

Scifuddin Yaziji, deputy director of Turkey's religious affairs department first had a meeting with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and later met with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.

The two sides discussed facilities for Turkish pilgrims in Jordan during the pilgrimage season in Mecca and Medina, and trips by Turkish pilgrims to tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's Companions in the Kingdom.

Hilayel said that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

provided accommodation facilities for the pilgrims in Ramtha, and health, religious and security services during their stay in the country.

Tombs of the Prophet Mohammad's Companions are found at Mu'ta near Karak in southern Jordan and in the Jordan Valley.

The Turkish official who arrived here Tuesday on a week-long visit, is accompanied by a team of officials from his department.



Qasem receives new envoy

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Wednesday received a copy of the credentials of Mr. G. Robert Bowker, the newly appointed Australian ambassador to Jordan. Mr. Bowker, who arrived here Tuesday evening, succeeds Mr. Terence Goggin who had served as his country's ambassador here since 1986. Mr. Bowker had served in a number of senior positions at the Australian Foreign Ministry and for some time had been director of the Middle East and South African desk at the Australian Foreign Ministry in Canberra (Petra photo)

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

BANK GUARANTEES: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has stressed the need for ministries and government departments to abide by the banking rules and norms which provide for defining the validity of the guarantees which the licensed banks and financial companies issue. In a statement he made Wednesday, Rifai noted that some of the departments still demand licensed banks and financial companies to issue guarantees with no dates or defined validity. He added that since such demands contravene banking norms and rules, then consideration for the date and validity of guarantees issued should be made to preserve the rights of all the sides to the bank guarantees. (Petra)

NEW MAYORS: The Cabinet Wednesday decided to respectively appoint Abdul Salam Al Qaralah, Nawwaf Al Shihab, Mohammad Al Khaza'leh, Mohammad Al Ghithyan, Mohammad Al Mu'ar'ar, Ali Al Khawaledeh, and Abdul Latif Al Ulwan as mayors of Kathraba, Mu'addi, Al Dajiyah, Abu Nseir, Um Al Qatn, Hayyan Al Rwaibed, and Ira. (Petra)

TAFIEH SEWERAGE PROJECTS: Representatives of local constructing companies now involved in carrying out sewerage and water projects in Tafieh had a meeting Wednesday with the deputy governor to discuss means of dealing with damage caused to the streets as a result of digging works to lay sewerage networks. The deputy governor urged the contractors to speed up the work especially in the downtown region, so that a programme can be worked out for removing rocks and earth that accumulated alongside the streets. The two sides formed a follow-up committee to undertake this task. (Petra)

ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS: Bangladesh President Mohammad Hossain Ershad Wednesday received the credentials of Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan Fakhri Abu Taleb as Jordan's non-resident ambassador in Dhaka. (Petra)

EXAMINATIONS: Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Wednesday inspected the course of examinations at schools in Na'ur district and Um Al Basatin sub-districts. (Petra)

HEALTH CENTRES IN MAFRAQ: The Department of Health in the Mafraq Governorate is currently involved in implementing projects at the total cost of JD 1 million, according to the department director. He said that the projects, which will be carried out during 1989, include a mini-hospital at Kweishid in eastern Jordan, a comprehensive health centre at Sabha and a similar one at Sama Al Sarhan, all of which to be completed in the coming few months. Work is underway to open health centres in Mmifa, Hasab and Mabrouka villages all within the Mafraq Governorate. (Petra)

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE: The executive council of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Wednesday discussed the plan to establish a united council for the private sector, scheduling the loans of the Ghor farmers, and the affairs of the chambers of commerce. The council decided to dispatch a Jordanian commercial delegation on a visit to Pakistan in early February. (Petra)

U.K. ENVOY HOSTS RECEPTION: British Ambassador in Amman and Deputy Chairman of the Jordanian-British Friendship Association Anthony Keave Wednesday hosted a reception attended by a number of senior officials in addition to the association chairman and members. He delivered a speech lauding the great role the association played in bolstering Jordan-Britain relations. (Petra)

Haj Hassan inaugurates locomotive workshop

AQABA (Petra, J.T.) — A workshop which would provide maintenance services to 29 railway locomotives owned and operated by the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) was inaugurated here Wednesday by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

The workshop, which took 18 months to build at the cost of JD 1.5 million was set up by the Indian Railway Construction Corporation (IRCC) on a 3,500 square metre piece of land. Apart from the maintenance area which is equipped with up to date machinery, the complex includes administrative offices, laboratories and affiliated installations.

"The success of the project reflects the close economic cooperation between India and Jordan and is bound to further boost bilateral trade," the minister said in a statement at the inauguration ceremony.

Haj Hassan said that the workshop was needed to cope with the ever-growing volume of rail

transport operations and the constant maintenance needed for the locomotives transporting phosphates from its mines at Hassa to Aqaba where it is loaded on ships for transport.

ARC Director General Mardi Qattamin said that the workshop will remove a big hurdle that used to impede the development of the railway and boost its efficiency.

ARC, he noted, had faced two major problems: A weakness of the railway line which cannot cope with the increasing axial loads and the absence of proper workshops for maintenance. While the second problem has now been taken care of by setting up the maintenance workshop in Aqaba which is being dealt with

by renewing the railway itself, a project first stage of which — nearly 64 kilometres in length — has been already completed at the cost of JD 4.5 million, Qattamin pointed out.

He said that the second stage, which entails building nearly 116 kilometres of rail from Batn Al Ghour area to Aqaba Port, is under construction at the total estimated cost of JD 11.5 million, while the third stage which entails building a railway between Ma'ane and Hassa — nearly 85 kilometres — is still to be carried out.

ARC Qattamin said, is expected to transport 3.5 million tonnes of phosphates from the mines to the port for export in 1990.

A representative of the Indian corporation delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony, pointing out that the project was a success of South-South cooperation and that the company was proud to have succeeded in contributing to Jordan's development programmes.

Israel violated Fourth Geneva Convention, Abu Qoura says

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Israeli authorities have violated the Fourth Geneva Convention by deporting 13 Palestinians this week, president of the Jordanian national Red Crescent Society Ahmad Abu Qoura stated Wednesday.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that such actions, which violate the Fifth Article of the Geneva Convention, are considered as a crime committed against the indigenous inhabi-

itants of the occupied territories.

Thirteen Palestinians were expelled from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Lebanon last Sunday, the 24th anniversary of the first military action by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah group.

The 13 were accused of heading popular committees, steering the uprising in the occupied Arab lands.

The deportees were flown by

helicopter to the northern edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

According to Abu Qoura, the Fourth Geneva Convention provides for protection to the civilian population of the occupied territories.

Israel has expelled 49 Palestinians since the uprising erupted in December, 1987, and a total of 917 since it occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967.

Tabbaa, Jordanian team review subjects to be discussed in Oman

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa had a meeting here Wednesday with members of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Omani committee which is due to hold a meeting in Muscat Saturday.

The minister reviewed with the committee members topics on the agenda which is designed to boost the scope of economic cooperation and increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

The two sides will discuss the prospect of increasing the sale of Jordan's national products to Oman and the importation of larger quantities of Omani fish through the Ministry of Supply.

On the agenda is the question of organising a Jordanian industrial fair in Muscat to help promote the sale of Jordanian vegetables and fruit to Oman and help facilitate the flow of exchanged goods between the two sides.

According to a Ministry of Industry and Trade statement the

joint committee will look into the prospect of setting up a joint Jordanian-Omani Holding Company to serve as an umbrella for joint projects. The committee will discuss the prospect of an agreement on transport and to provide Oman with Jordanian expertise in industry, agriculture, and tourism.

Jordan currently imports fresh Omani fish and exports pharmaceutical products, vegetables, fruit, carpet, pieces of furniture, domestic appliances and glass.

Tabbaa is to head the team which will go to Oman Thursday. Meanwhile a senior Omani official now on a week-long visit to Jordan Wednesday called at a

number of agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley and met with officials and local farmers. The official is Sa'd Ibn Mousa Al Juneibi, the director general of the Omani bank for agriculture and fisheries.

Projects, which he visited, included those financed through loans from the Agricultural Credit Corporation, which lends out funds for various agricultural projects in Jordan.

Juneibi said that Oman hopes to benefit from Jordan's expertise in vegetable production through drip irrigation processes and breeding of sheep which is now being undertaken on a large scale in the Kingdom.

Tafieh spends over JD 11 m on industrial, public service projects

TAFIEH (Petra) — A total of JD 11,336 million was spent on industrial and public services projects within the Tafieh Governorate during the past year, according to Tafieh Governor Aref Irsheid who is also chairman of Tafieh Development Council.

Irsheid said that projects for the second half of the 1986-1990

five-year development plan aim to raise the standard of living for the population in the Tafieh Governorate which also includes Hassa and Basra.

The five-year plan's first stage focused attention on industrial, agricultural, mining and economic sectors and included provisions for the development of all raw materials, especially those mined at Hassa and Rasbadieh in the southern regions of the

Kingdom. Developing agriculture in Tafieh region was also sought during the first half of the plan, Irsheid noted.

He said the first phase of the five-year plan witnessed maintenance and construction of main and agricultural roads within the governorate and an improvement in telecommunications and health and educational services.

Income Tax Department collects JD 43.3 m in '88

AMMAN (J.T.) — Income Tax Department Director General Salmaan Al Tarawneh announced that a total of JD 43.3 million in income tax was collected by his department in the past year compared to JD 45.3 million in the previous year.

The decline in income tax collection can be attributed to the fact that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) had paid less income tax in the past year because it had to pay JD 3 million and JD 5 million in 1987 in the course of purchasing the ill-fated Jordan Chemical Fertiliser Industries Company. Tarawneh noted in an interview published Wednesday by the Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Tarawneh said that the JPMC has now overcome the previous difficulties and was back on the right track, something which will reflect positively on the department's collections in the 1989.

The government had earlier taken a decision to exempt the Jordan Cement Factories (JCF) from income tax until 1990 after merging it with the South Cement Factory Company. It also exempted a number of Jordanian insurance and financial com-

panies from income tax due to their merger with one another, Tarawneh noted.

The Income Tax Department, he said, is trying hard to make all taxpayers pay their dues on time and to apply the laws and regulations to all sectors in a bid to increase the income tax collections.

He also said the taxpayers with large sums in arrears are allowed to pay their dues in instalment due to their difficult financial situation.

To help increase the income tax collections, department teams began to distribute forms to all taxpayers to be filled and returned to the department so that tax can be calculated on income, Tarawneh noted.

He said last year, the department received 84,032 filled forms compared with 75,546 in 1987, which reflects the additional efforts being exerted by the department staff and the greater public awareness to the income tax procedures.

Tarawneh expected that his department will collect no less than JD 60 million in income tax from individuals and various organisations during 1989.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT SEVENTH EDUCATION PROJECT

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get, bid documents from the Projects and Buildings Directorate, Ministry of Education from 1/1/1989, with the following conditions.

A- The Seventh Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

B- Description of Tender	Price Tender	
	JD	Bond
1. Tender No. 52/D/88 construction of school buildings in Mardaneh and Matarq Area (8400) Sq. M.	125	25000
2. Tender No. 53/D/88 construction of school buildings in Sal and Beit Ras Area (7530) Sq. M.	125	25000
3. Tender No. 54/D/88 construction of school building in Masbaganieh and Bareha Area (8750) Sq. M.	125	25000
4. Tender No. 55/D/88 construction of school buildings in Qusaileh and Moajeh Area (8330) Sq. M.	125	25000

C- Last date of purchasing copies of documents is 7.2.1989
D- Last date for submitting financial offers is 14.2.1989 at 12.00 noon at the Ministry of Education.

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Israeli arrogance may yield to raw economics

TO TREAT the economic malaise that Israel is facing, the new Israeli Minister of Finance Shimon Peres has proposed an austerity budget cutting into the state budget for the new year by as much as \$550 million including some \$200 million cut in the defence budget. This alarmed Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who rejected this suggested cut into Israel's military forces on two principal grounds: First, Rabin argued, "if there were a war in two to three years," the Israeli army "would pay a higher price in lives to achieve certain goals because it will not have the other means to achieve them." Secondly, Rabin asserted that the price of dealing with the Palestinian uprising has become exorbitant especially with no end of the uprising in sight.

Such remarks from Israel's defence minister should cause the Arab World some serious concern. If one takes the reasonings of Rabin in reverse order, the Arab side must take political and economic notice that Rabin's occupying forces are committed to a strategy aiming for the quelling of the Palestinian intifada. Rabin and like-minded Israeli leadership are bent on fighting and responding to the Palestinian revolt by fire and blood even if that entails considerable loss of lives on the Palestinian side and colossal financial expenditures to be drained from the overall defence budget of Israel.

And when such military projections are considered in conjunction with Rabin's forecast that a war between Israel and the Arab side could erupt in two or three years, the full dimensions of Israel's military strategy becomes all the more threatening. At a time when the Arab side talks about peace and the convening of an international peace conference and its military preparedness assuming a low profile, it does not take much thinking and analysis to deduce from Rabin's policy statements that if there were a war between Israel and the Arab side in two or three years, it is going to be a war started by Israel.

Yet, the power of economics is beginning to take its toll on Israeli military adventurism. Israel is in the process of discovering that almighty Israel is no different from the superpowers and that the day of economic and fiscal reckoning has dawned. Judging by the degree of austerity proposed by Israel's minister of finance, it would not be long before Israel's arrogance will yield to raw economics and bend in the direction of peace and accommodation with the Arab side. Thus when all has failed, fiscal and economic considerations are coming to the rescue of the fortunes of peace in the Middle East, and Rabin may not succeed in his aging battle for militarism come what may.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Wednesday commented on a meeting chaired by His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday to review the achievements of the development seminars and the government's policies in the New Year. The meeting came in the wake of the announcement of the new 1989 budget which contains guidelines for the various government departments concerning spending, development projects and research schemes designed to take the country slowly and firmly to the 21st century with a greater confidence, the paper noted. The events of the past year, it said, offered Jordanians a chance to take stock and contemplate the achievements that were realised despite the numerous challenges and difficulties. Not only did the King discuss this in detail but he also dwelt on pan-Arab issues, the paper added. It said that the King's concern over the interest of his country and the Arab nation at large is emphasised everyday through his directives to the government and his open and clear support for all pan-Arab causes.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the open U.S. military threats to Libya represented in the movement of American fleets towards the eastern Mediterranean region and the latest statements coming from Washington about the Arab country's production of chemical weapons. Abdul Rahim Omar says the U.S. has threatened to blow up the Libyan plant because it says it does not want "terrorists" to benefit from the chemical weapons in their activities around the world. Despite the fact that Libya has already denied building such a plant and declared that it is a pharmaceutical factory, the Americans are still determined to provide excuses for destroying the plant an action that would be condemned worldwide, the writer notes. He wonders about Washington's moves and asks: Since when the U.S. had been appointed to serve as the policeman of the world imposing its will on other countries? Why, the writer asks, does the U.S. condone Israel's production of cluster and nerve bombs and continue its aggression on the Arab World? The writer says that America's threat directed against Libya should be confronted with a firm stand by all the Arab countries which should declare total solidarity with Tripoli.

Al Dstour daily followed the example of Al Ra'i newspaper in tackling development projects in Jordan as were reviewed by a meeting Tuesday chaired by King Hussein and attended by Crown Prince Hassan. The development projects charted for 1989 as they appeared in the New Year's budget reflect the government's orientation towards maintaining the momentum of construction and progress in all fields and manifests the Jordanian people's desire to overcome the present difficulties, the paper noted. It said that Prince Hassan has devoted his time and effort to promote the development process in the country working diligently under the constant guidance of King Hussein and in close cooperation with the government and the private sector.

Sawt Al Shabab daily said in an editorial that the national development conference held in November under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hussein and the resolutions adopted by the participants serve as a basic strategy for the government's policies in the New Year. The paper said that 1989 budget was in fact an embodiment of the King's directives and confronting to the country's orientation at the national and pan-Arab levels. The new budget, it added, offers the Jordanian citizens an opportunity to adapt to the economic situation now prevailing in the country.

For Europeans, more at stake in Middle East

By P.V. Vivekanand

IT IS heartening to hear explicit statements from the European Economic Community (EEC) of plans to launch a new peace initiative in the Middle East, shifting from mere declarations to active diplomacy. It is precisely the kind of European move that the Arab World has been waiting over the past several years since it has been evident that there could never be a just and fair settlement to the Palestinian problem without strong diplomatic pressure on Israel's staunchest supporter and ally, the United States, and that such pressure could only come from the Europeans speaking in one voice to force Washington to prod Israel into dropping its intransigence and defiance.

The new European initiative, which has a declared target of an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices, could indeed be a watershed in efforts for peace in the Middle East, particularly if the EEC "troika" — France, Spain and Greece — manage to straighten out at least a part of the fundamental differences in Arab, Israeli, American and European views of what kind of a solution would be just, durable, comprehensive and fair to all parties concerned. More relevant, though, is the avowed Israeli refusal to relinquish territory and to accept the idea of an independent Palestinian state. We hope the EEC realises and accepts that recent flurry in Israel to revive the Camp David accords was only aimed at throwing a red herring across the path of the new Palestinian strategy for peace based on a two-state solution, and that the community is realistically convinced that no settlement short of comprehensively addressing the national aspirations of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will ever be able to restore peace in the region.

One could easily find several reasons why the European Economic Community should take a new interest in the Middle East and push for an international conference. The most prominent of them of course is the intifada in the occupied territories, images of which have created a furor among European public opinion and a new awareness of the realities in the situation, followed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism and the American move to open a dialogue with the PLO.

The catalyst, however, for the Europeans is the new trend in superpower relations towards settling regional conflicts through dialogue and the warmth and emerging tacit understanding

between Washington and Moscow. The developments since the signing of the historic intermediate range nuclear forces treaty between the U.S. and the Soviet Union last year has gone a long way in allaying European apprehensions over the "Soviet threat" which had made it imperative on Europe to look to its "big brother" across the Atlantic for protection. Furthermore, the seriousness with which the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev is pursuing efforts to settle regional conflicts — Afghanistan, Angola/Namibia, Kampuchea and others — appears to have convinced the Europeans of an irreversible trend in Soviet policies which bodes well for European security and stability.

The emerging scenario is simple on the surface; now that the European fear of the Soviet Union has considerably scaled down, Europe should break away from the American net and look at things in their right perspective. They should realise that they have been paying a high price in terms of their interests in the Middle East simply because they did not dare speak out against the all-out American support and backing for Israel, which made the Zionist state look almost invincible. They should also accept the fact that they have been held to ransom by Israel's timely reminders of the "Nazi holocaust" and "European apathy" towards the Jews during World War II. It should no longer be natural that every European diplomat will be reluctant to approach this particular aspect since it has been the part of the system in Europe and everyone grew up with the built-in guilt mentality over what happened during the Nazi era (a reminder here by a European colleague that "It is not the done thing" in Europe to put "holocaust" between quotation marks only proves my point).

Of course, we cannot overlook the reality that the pronounced disarray in the Arab ranks did not help any in nudging the Europeans to do more than issuing declarations on the Middle East so far. The breakthrough now is the firm Arab position behind the new Palestinian strategy for peace.

In a nutshell, the scene is indeed set for Europe to assume the leading role in pushing for peace in the Middle East. How realistically it goes about doing it is a different matter altogether.

For the pessimists, it is easy to foresee Europe launching a half-hearted attempt starting with initiating contacts with the key players in the region towards an international peace conference, only to be told to lay off by Washington and Israel. It is only conceivable that the U.S. could use a number of pressure points,

including trade and economic relations, to beat back the initiative while Israel will be rummaging through history files to wave new evidences of "European crimes against the Jews."

Experiences have shown that when it comes to direct European-Israeli contacts over peace, the Israelis always capitalised on "European guilt" of World War II and browbeat the Europeans with pointed reminders to the Nazi era. Will the Europeans be able to hold their ground this time around and counter forcefully the "holocaust" the security and stability of the same people of the "holocaust" now lie in a peaceful settlement rather than in military might and continued occupation of other people's lands, and if anything, Europe will be doing them a favour in the long run by striving for a just and fair solution?

On the other side, one could easily detect dedication and seriousness behind the European move. The task that lies ahead of the Arabs is to strengthen these sentiments to the point that they could resist Israeli and American pressure to accept the Zionist way of things which does not entertain the idea of granting the Palestinians their legitimate rights. The fundamental element should be hammered home anew that the security and stability of the Middle East are closely linked with that of Europe, and the European responsibility for creating the Palestinian problem in the first place should not fade away in the glaring light of heavily-publicised World War II events, which, no doubt, will start raising new heads in the Western media soon enough.

We don't need to remind the statesmen in Europe whose diplomatic and experienced brains are behind the latest EEC drive for peace in the Middle East that every step along the way will be hard and dangers will be lurking round the corner. Clear objectives, perseverance, sense of justice and firm positions are the need of the day.

Having said that, the question that remains unanswered is: Is there a clear and attractive enough incentive for the Europeans to adopt a collision course with the U.S. and Israel? They have only themselves to ask who paid dear prices and absorbed spillovers of the violence in the Middle East and who stands to pay more if the situation is left unaddressed in a fair and just manner. There is little doubt that every initiative that does not produce fruitful results will only breed further extremism, strengthen the hand of hardliners and push the Middle East region into chaos and bloodshed and Europe cannot escape the fallout.

The writer is the political editor of the Jordan Times.

1988 — a good year for the Arabs

By Mariam Shahin

AMMAN — Gamaliya, a middle class neighbourhood of Cairo, has now come to be known as the home of "scribe of Egypt." Why? Simply because some seventy and seven years ago it gave birth to Naguib Mahfouz, the Arab World's only winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

When the Nobel committee announced in October this year that Mahfouz had won the coveted prize, the Arab World hailed him as a hero; now his Cairene compatriots feel he is approaching "pharaohism." While the Arab press, literary circles and the educated and uneducated alike were swimming in xenophobia over the fact that the Nobel Prize for Mahfouz was the much belated recognition of Arabic literature, the Western press was pondering over what it saw as "the generous gesture" that the Nobel panel extended to the Arab World. Particular emphasis was given in the West to the fact that only one of the panel members could actually read Mahfouz's works in its original form i.e. Arabic. One wonders why the same media did not try to hammer in the same theme in the cases of past Nobel Prizes that went to works in, say for instance, Russian or Hindi.

Said many an Arab commentator: "An Arab writer should have received a Nobel Prize a long time ago." Some others said: "The West is always the last to recognise the Arabs' worth" (not that it applied only to literature; it is quite true to things other than the written word).

Yet some others sought to play down Mahfouz' honour by linking his Nobel success to that of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who shared a Nobel Prize for Peace with then Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in 1980 for the U.S.-brokered Egypt-Israel peace treaty which was seen as a betrayal of the Arab cause in Palestine. To be fair to all, we will never know how far such considerations were behind the Nobel panel's decision this year (there are many people who cannot overlook what they see as the none-too-obvious political considerations behind awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to dissident Andrei Sakharov of the Soviet Union and militant unionist Lech Walesa of Poland, according to this school of thought).

A paramount question emerges from the scenario surrounding Mahfouz and his Nobel Prize: Why the Arab World is hesitant to give itself credibility? Why does it wait for others to recognise it?

Others will only respect you, if you have self-respect, is the essence of an old proverb. But, it would seem that it remains only a memory as far as the Arab World is concerned.

The longer the Arabs continue to measure their society's success solely by what non-Arabs, more specifically the West, have to say about it, the stronger is the Arab World's amazingly negative view of its own image.

Again, though in no way a universal phenomenon, the image problem that the Arabs have been exposed to is not exactly something that could be brushed aside. We do not have to look far for one of its root causes — the centuries-old conflict between Arab and Islam on the one hand and the West on the other. The situation has only worsened in the last two or three decades, what with the image of "Arab terrorists," "the snarling Arabs lunging at Israel," "the Christian-Muslim war in Lebanon," and "the senseless Arab-Persian bloodbath in the Gulf."

One has to admit that the situation is gradually undergoing a change that could easily be attributed inter alia to the Palestinian uprising — "the revolution of stones" — in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, Mahfouz' Nobel Prize, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recognition of Israel and the U.S. move to open a dialogue with the PLO after a 13-year hiatus. Somehow, the Arab World is emerging with a more "acceptable" status in the international arena as representing a people with age-old culture, traditions and values. Not that these factors were not in focus until now, but that only now the Western world is showing realistic signs of accepting them.

Self-confidence and persistence on the part of the Arabs were the key elements in bringing about this change, say some people. While the battle appeared to be one pitting the Arab World against the rest of the planet which somehow or the other

seemed to be united in its "anti-Arabism," the Arabs sought to consolidate the uprising, Iraq's quest for peace, the existence of the PLO and, of course, Mahfouz as realities no-one could cold shoulder.

But, did the Arabs really impose anything on the international community? It was the children of the stones battling armed-tooth Israeli soldiers that roused the attention of the world and heralded the so-called "moderate" stand of the PLO and the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It was the realisation in Iran of the futility of the war that prompted a ceasefire in the eight-year conflict. And it was the quality of Mahfouz' writing that brought him the Nobel Prize.

Come to think of it, did any Arab lobby for Mahfouz? If any one did, he or she deserves a Nobel Prize, if only because he or she had overcome one of the most fundamental barriers in the Arab World: lack of real interest and appreciation of Arab writers. Recent surveys have found that newspapers aside, fashion magazines and glossy publications take the top slot in Arab readership.

In any case 1988 has been good to us, we saw an end to the Iran-Iraq war, the stoic continuity of the intifada, Mahfouz's prize, the PLO success in Geneva and, most promising of all, the leaders of the Arab World meeting in a friendly ambience, smiling after almost a decade of frowns. Our governments are opening their doors to each other, the rest of the world has opened one eye to us as well.

Self-confidence and persistence on the part of the Arabs were the key elements in bringing about this change, say some people. While the battle appeared to be one pitting the Arab World against the rest of the planet which somehow or the other

Yugoslavia considers multi-party system

By Vjekoslav Radovic
Reuters

BELGRADE — Communist Yugoslavia is searching its soul over a possible switch to a multi-party system.

An economic crisis in Yugoslavia itself and liberal trends in the Soviet Bloc have fuelled a debate on the subject which has spread into the ranks of the ruling Communist Party.

Even now, Yugoslavia sometimes seems to have more than one party as the Communist parties of each republic and province seldom seem to agree, and often quarrel publicly with each other. "The only problem is they are all Communist parties and there is no real opposition across ideological lines," said a Yugoslav analyst.

Under the one-party system, there are no direct elections for top political posts. Parliamentarians are elected indirectly in a complex "delegates system" involving all aged over 18.

The prime minister is chosen by the supreme state body, the eight-member State Presidency, and endorsed by parliament.

The presidency is elected not by the people but by Communist Front organisations. Some steps are being taken to involve the people more directly in choosing the presidency.

When Prime Minister Branko Mikulic and his government resigned Friday in an economic policy showdown with parliament he became the first Yugoslav premier to fall since Communists took power in 1945.

His fall demonstrated that parliament already enjoys at least some opportunities akin to Western democracies, and prompted analysts to say that Yugoslavia will now have to ponder deeply a pluralist system and creation of an elected government.

Party Secretary Stefan Korosec said earlier last month the idea of a classic multi-party system remained "futuristic".

But intellectuals in his liberal home republic of Slovenia have set the ball rolling for seven alternative parties to be created. Two will soon hold their founding congresses, and both urge a new constitution, multi-party system and free elections.

The Belgrade newspaper Politika Ekspress commented that political parties were growing in Slovenia "like mushrooms".

Slovenian Communist Party leader Milan Kucan, considered a liberal and a reformer, said the groups had many good things in their programmes but "plenty of negation of everything Socialist in Yugoslavia, which is unacceptable".

Yugoslav Communist Party President Stipe Svarcar, who is from Croatia, said the Yugoslav constitution did not allow for a multi-party system.

Ivica Racan, a member of the Yugoslav party's ruling politburo and one of Svarcar's main rivals in Croatia, revealed in a recent article that within the Communist Party there was a rift between conservatives and liberals who favoured a pluralist system.

Political analysts said Yugoslavia, one of the pioneers of democratisation in the Communist World when it broke from the Soviet Bloc in 1948, was now falling behind some East Euro-

pean Communist states, such as Hungary. Hungarian Communist Party leader Karoly Grosz said last month he thought a one-party system could still ensure progress. "But if public opinion or the population of the country sees the guarantee not in one party but in more parties, we have nothing against that," he said.

National interests

In Yugoslavia, the main argument against the multi-party system since 1945, has been that the parties would be based on national interests, which could result in a bloodbath in a multi-ethnic country.

Such fears have been sharpened this year by growing ethnic strife between Serbs and ethnic Albanians. Nationalism has also been on the rise in other parts of the multi-racial federation.

As the country grapples with 228 per cent inflation, a \$21 billion debt, falling living standards and labour unrest, quarrels between the eight regional Communist branches are often as bitter as between political parties before World War II.

After the war the Communists briefly formed a coalition with pre-war royalist parties, but under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito they eliminated all opposition parties after consolidating their power in 1947.

The idea of a multi-party system was revived in the 1950s by Milovan Djilas, then one of Marshal Tito's closest lieutenants.

Djilas, sacked and jailed for his "heresies", is still the leading Yugoslav dissident. He has been allowed in the past year to publish literary work, give lectures and travel abroad.

After Tito died in 1980, calls for pluralism were vigorously renewed by Serbian intellectuals and by those in the prosperous Slovenia and Croatia regions.

Slovenian President Janez Stanovnik recently said: "Reforms of the economic system can be implemented only by reforming the political system."

But like most politicians in power, he has declared himself against the creation of opposition parties.

Most Communists in high places see the alternative to a multi-party system in giving more power and initiative to the Socialist Alliance Communist Front Organisation.

But they all agree the alliance has succumbed to routine formwork and was still under tight Communist control.

In Slovenia, however, the new alternative groups emerging on the political stage foresee themselves operating under the umbrella of the Socialist Alliance, at least at the start.

Djilas, 77, told Reuters that while he first tackled the idea of a multi-party system in 1950s, "it was more a vision than a real possibility, but now it has a real chance."

"With slight variations from one republic to another, Yugoslavia is generally moving towards more democracy, and I see no solution without a multi-party system," he said.

He said it would be a gradual process, but could become reality, for many years.

Panama's strongman survives 1988

By Katherine King
Reuters

PANAMA CITY — Since talks between Washington and General Manuel Antonio Noriega on a deal for the Panamanian military leader to relinquish power collapsed last May, a joke has made the rounds in Panama.

"Did you hear the Noriega and the White House have reached a deal?" it goes. "Reagan is going to step down in January."

The irony of a year of pointed U.S. and opposition pressure to oust Noriega and predictions his days were numbered is that the former U.S. ally has not only hung on but is considering whether to expand his power by running for president.

Speculation over Noriega's possible candidacy in the May 7 election is an obsession for some who scrutinise his every statement and action trying to determine what he will decide.

Under recently revised election laws, formal declarations for the presidency can be made as late as three months before the election, in this case by Feb. 7. Previously, the law stipulated six months.

Noriega will not say whether or not he plans to run.

But his appearances and speeches at public events, where in civilian dress he shakes hands and greets followers with the flourish of a seasoned campaigner, have led many Panamanians to believe he will really run.

Several members of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) have said publicly Noriega would be the best candidate but quickly added the general will be the one to decide whether or not



the least popular.

The poll, distributed here by the opposition Christian Democratic Party (PDC), was commissioned by a private Venezuelan group said to have ties to the opposition.

But several diplomatic and Panamanian sources said that despite his reported unpopularity, Noriega or another military backed candidate might have a chance at winning because the opposition political parties have become so divided.

In three opposition parties, the Liberal Party, the Republican Party and the authentic Panamanian Party, factions have splintered off from the main group. The Panamanian Party, the

largest and strongest of the opposition parties whose long-time leader Arnulfo Arias Madrid died last August, is in the midst of a split that has led to a bitter power struggle for leadership.

One faction headed by party sub-secretary Guillermo Endarra and party Vice President Jorge Pacifico Adams claim the party is being "stolen" from them by Hildebrando Nicosia, the party's general secretary who broke with Arias Madrid in 1984 but retained his title.

Nicosia has moved to "eject" the Endarra faction from the party. Endarra has in turn ordered Nicosia's ejection from the party.

EN BREF

Maroc-Polisario: l'éclaircie

Les rebelles saharais du Front Polisario devaient rencontrer mercredi à Marrakech le roi Hassan II du Maroc, auquel le conflit du Sahara occidental les oppose depuis 13 ans. C'est la première fois depuis le début du conflit que les deux parties en présence acceptent de discuter. Selon des diplomates à Rabat, les ententes devraient porter sur le plan de paix des Nations-Unies sur ce territoire situé aux frontières du Maroc, de l'Algérie et de la Mauritanie. Ce plan avait été élaboré par Javier Perez de Cuellar en 1987 à la suite d'une mission des Nations-Unies sur les lieux du conflit. Les deux parties l'avaient accepté en août de la même année. Il prévoit un cessez-le-feu suivi d'un référendum par lequel la population nomade du Sahara occidental pourra choisir l'indépendance ou le rattachement au Maroc, qui a toujours revendiqué sa souveraineté sur ce territoire — riche en matières premières — depuis le retrait des Espagnols en 1977. "Je suis prêt à discuter, mais pas négocier", a diplomatiquement assuré Hassan II dans une interview au journal Le Point. (d'après J.T.)

Amal-Hizbollah: reprise des combats

Près de 30 personnes ont déjà trouvé la mort au cours des combats qui, depuis une semaine, font de nouveau rage entre les milices chiites pro-iraniennes Amal et pro-iraniennes Hizbollah, à Beyrouth et au Sud-Liban. Les combats ont repris lundi dans le Sud, moins d'une heure après un fragile cessez-le-feu imposé par les Syriens dans la capitale. "Des que les Syriens ont le dos tourné, ils recommencent à se battre", a déclaré une habitante de la banlieue-sud, où les combats entre les deux milices avaient déjà fait près de 600 morts en avril. Dans le Sud, dont Amal avait pratiquement chassé le Hizbollah en avril, la milice pro-syrienne s'en prend aux derniers bastions des "fous de Dieu". Selon les observateurs, cette nouvelle flambée fait suite à un accord Amal-OLP, selon lequel les Palestiniens cesseraient leur soutien au Hizbollah. Près de 1.500 personnes sont décédées de mort violente en 1988 au Liban. (d'après Reuters)

Gouvernement israélien: escarmouches

Le ministre des finances israélien, Shimon Peres, s'est attiré les foudres de ses collègues du Likoud et même certains travaillistes en proposant mardi son plan d'austérité budgétaire pour juguler l'inflation. Cible des critiques: la réduction des dépenses militaires de 200 millions de dollars. La semaine dernière, le gouvernement a dévalué le Shekel de 13%. Israël connaît actuellement sa pire récession depuis 1982. (agencies)

13 palestiniens expulsés

Les autorités israéliennes ont expulsé le 1er janvier vers le Liban 13 Palestiniens suspects d'appartenir à la direction clandestine du mouvement.

Bourse d'Amman: activité en hausse

La bourse d'Amman a enregistré en 1988 une hausse de 12,2% du nombre des titres échangés par rapport à l'année précédente. En revanche, la valeur moyenne quotidienne en dinars de ces échanges a marqué le pas de 13% par rapport à 1987. (J.T.)

Ambassade de Palestine à Riyad

Yasser Arafat a hissé le 1er janvier le drapeau palestinien sur l'ambassade de Palestine à Riyad. L'immeuble, dont la construction a coûté 5 millions de dollars, a été offert par le gouvernement saoudien. Riyad a annoncé que la représentation de l'OLP en Arabie saoudite jouissait désormais du statut diplomatique et que son directeur, Rafik Natshéh, devenait de ce fait ambassadeur de Palestine. Deux autres ambassades sont en construction à Alger et Bagdad.

Vous écrivez?

Le Jourdain recherche des collaborateurs en free-lance, avec des idées originales d'enquêtes et de reportages. D'après accord. Contacter François Dueroux au Jordan Times, 664171.

Le Saviez-vous?

Echange standard

Lors de la clôture du Conseil national palestinien d'Alger, en novembre dernier, Yasser Arafat s'adresse à un journaliste libanais: "Vous avez un territoire sans président, et nous avons un président sans territoire. Que diriez-vous d'un échange?"



Priorité à la production nationale et à l'exportation

Budget en baisse, austérité

1989: produire d'abord

Le budget 1989, présenté le 31 décembre par le Cabinet, se monte à 1.035 dinars, soit une baisse en valeur absolue de 40 millions de dinars par rapport à l'an passé. L'austérité oblige. L'Etat ne financera pas cette année de nouveaux services et infrastructures, concentrant son effort sur les activités productives. Défense et service de la dette sont en tête des chapitres budgétaires.

Les revenus de l'Etat sont estimés à 913,2 millions de dinars pour l'exercice 1989 (taxes, droits de douanes, aide étrangère et emprunts). Le déficit prévisionnel se monte donc à 122,2 millions de dinars, contre 69,9 millions en 1988. Selon le Cabinet, il devrait être couvert par des économies sur les dépenses publiques, une amélioration des revenus nationaux et des emprunts intérieurs et extérieurs.

Selon le ministre des finances, Hanna Odeh, le gouvernement s'en tiendra strictement aux prévisions du budget. Il n'y aura pas de dépenses consacrées à de nouveaux services et infrastructures, et le gouvernement n'empruntera pas d'argent pour financer des projets non productifs, a-t-il ajouté. M. Odeh a précisé que la dépense publique visera à augmenter la production nationale et à réduire le déficit budgétaire, afin d'accroître l'autosuffisance du pays.

Menu 1989 (principaux chapitres)

Défense et sécurité:	251 millions de JD (256 en 1988)
Service de la dette:	209,7 millions (177,7 en 1988)
Développement économique:	154,4 millions (256,1 en 1988)
Services sociaux:	118 millions (142,4 en 1988)
Total dépenses:	1.035 millions (1.075 en 1988)
Déficit prévisionnel:	122,2 millions (69,9 millions en 1988)

Serrez votre ceinture

A partir du 18 janvier, le port de la ceinture sera rendu obligatoire pour les passagers avant de tous les véhicules, quelle que soit leur vitesse, en ville comme sur les routes.

De 1970 à fin 1987, on a recensé 177.126 accidents de la route en Jordanie, qui ont coûté la vie à 6.598 personnes et en ont blessé 103.780, selon le directeur du Département de la circulation routière.

1985 a été une année noire, avec un record de 524 morts et 9.100 blessés. Ces chiffres ont été révélés à l'occasion d'un séminaire consacré au port de la ceinture de sécurité, dont le gouvernement veut rendre l'usage obligatoire dans tous les véhicules à partir de ce mois-ci. La loi obligeait les automobilistes à porter la ceinture de 1983. Mais depuis, des amendements avaient autorisé les automobilistes à rouler sans ceinture, en deçà de 60 km/h puis de 40 km/h, et la loi n'était pas vraiment respectée. Désormais, les contrevenants devront payer une amende, dont le montant n'a pas été précisé.

L'Australie a été le premier pays du monde à imposer le port de la ceinture obligatoire, en 1972, suivie par la Nouvelle-Zélande puis les pays européens, les Etats-Unis et le Canada. Selon une récente étude britannique, le port de la ceinture réduit le taux de mortalité routière de 26% et le nombre de blessés de 23%.

Le ministre de la santé, Zubair Malhas, a estimé que mieux vaut prévenir que guérir et que le port de la ceinture économiserait des vies et des dépenses hospitalières. Il a nié que la ceinture ait des effets néfastes sur les femmes enceintes et a souligné qu'elle protégeait les enfants à 100%.

Par ailleurs, il a précisé que la ceinture évitait les blessures à la tête et à la nuque, qui sont souvent responsables de comas. (d'après Petra)

Ils trouvent de moins en moins des postes à l'étranger

Chômeurs: retour à l'envoyeur

Le chômage, estimé entre 10 et 17% de la population active, atteint un seuil critique en Jordanie. Si la crise internationale y est pour quelque chose, la structure même de l'économie nationale ne favorise pas l'embauche des demandeurs d'emploi.

Combien sont-ils? Officiellement, le taux de chômage en Jordanie a récemment été estimé à 10% environ de la population active. La Fédération générale des travailleurs jordaniens a avancé le 17 août dernier le chiffre de 12%, par la voix de son Secrétaire général, Sami Kardan. Certains vont plus loin. Fahed Al-Fanek, économiste et chroniqueur au Rai, a évalué dans une conférence donnée en octobre le taux de chômage à 16% de la population active. En septembre 1987 déjà, Jawad Anani, président de l'Association scientifique royale, avançait 17%.

Si les chiffres divergent, les analystes sont unanimes: le chômage a atteint en Jordanie un seuil critique. Témoin la conférence organisée sur ce thème le mois dernier par l'université du Yarmouk, présidée par le Prince Hassan.

Le chômage n'est pas un fait nouveau dans le pays. Les responsables expliquent le phéno-

Prochaine tournée au Proche-Orient

CEE: objectif paix

La Communauté économique européenne (CEE) doit engager prochainement une initiative de paix au Proche-Orient, qui devrait se traduire par une tournée dans les sept pays concernés par le conflit.

L'objectif numéro un de cette initiative est la promotion d'une conférence internationale de paix sous les auspices des Nations-Unies. Une idée qui, pour l'instant, se heurte à une opposition farouche en Israël.

Le premier ministre espagnol et président en exercice de la CEE pour six mois depuis le 1er janvier, Felipe Gonzalez, a indiqué lundi que le dossier du Proche-Orient constituera l'un des principaux objectifs de son pays en matière de politique étrangère. L'Espagne a succédé à la Grèce à la présidence de la CEE. C'est la première fois depuis son adhésion à la communauté en janvier 1986 que Madrid exerce cette fonction. La

France la relatera à ce poste pour les six mois suivants. Les Douze avaient annoncé le 19 décembre leur intention d'engager des contacts avec les parties concernées par le conflit proche-oriental. A cet effet, une "troïka" avait été désignée pour mener à bien cette mission, composée des chefs de la diplomatie française, espagnole et grecque. Ils représenteront la CEE devant Israël, les Etats-Unis et l'OLP notamment.

Fernandez Ordonez, le ministre des Affaires étrangères espagnol, a affirmé que 1989 "pourrait être l'année du déblocage" de la situation au Proche-Orient. Durant la présidence espagnole, les douze joueront un "rôle de stimulant, de contact et de persuasion", a-t-il indiqué.

Le ministre s'est entretenu le 2 décembre à Paris avec son homologue français, Roland Dumas. "Nous voulons commencer à travailler (sur l'initiative de paix) immédiatement. Nous avons décidé une série de visites dans les sept pays concernés", a déclaré M. Ordonez à l'issue de ces entretiens. Il n'a pas précisé les noms de ces pays. Le chef de la diplomatie espagnole, qui revenait d'une visite en Egypte, a en outre estimé qu'Israël changerait sa position concernant la conférence internationale, toutes les autres alternatives ayant été épuisées.

M. Ordonez a indiqué qu'un premier rapport serait présenté en février à Madrid lors d'une conférence des ministres des Affaires étrangères de la communauté.

Par ailleurs, selon un porte-parole de l'OLP, Yasser Arafat pourrait se rendre à Madrid en janvier pour des entretiens avec MM. Gonzalez et Ordonez. Au centre de ces discussions, la conférence internationale et la création d'un Etat palestinien, précise-t-on de même source. (agencies)

Israël prêt à s'isoler

ser dans une telle initiative, les membres de la CEE nous consultent préalablement afin de coordonner leur action avec nous; ils n'ont aucune raison de ne pas écouter notre point de vue avec la plus grande attention", a déclaré M. Arens.

Evoquant l'appel européen à un dialogue Israël-OLP, il a estimé qu'une telle démarche mettrait en danger la sécurité de son pays. Il a également critiqué le dialogue Etats-Unis-OLP, jugeant qu'il faisait du tort à la lutte contre le "terrorisme international". Mais interrogé sur le plan de paix israélien, M. Arens s'est borné à indiquer qu'il était toujours en cours d'élaboration. M. Arens a toutefois souligné les deux points suivants:

— Israël n'est pas prêt à se retirer des territoires occupés, car "les frontières d'avant 1967 ne sont pas sûres".

— Tel Aviv espère rétablir ses relations diplomatiques avec Moscou. L'amélioration de la relation israélo-égyptienne est une priorité.

Deux avions libyens abattus par les Américains

Deux avions de chasse libyens ont été abattus par des appareils américains lors d'un combat aérien au-dessus de la Méditerranée mercredi, a annoncé le Département d'Etat américain.

Selon un porte-parole du Pentagone, les avions libyens, deux Mig-23S, ont été abattus par des F-14 basés sur le porte-avion John Kennedy, lors d'une patrouille de routine au-dessus des eaux internationales. Les avions libyens se dirigeaient sur eux à grande vitesse et leurs radars de tir étaient en marche, ajoute-t-on de même source. Les F-14 ont alors ouvert le feu, s'estimant attaqués.

Le responsable des relations de presse au ministère libyen des Affaires étrangères a de son côté déclaré qu'il n'avait pas d'informations sur cet incident.

Il s'agit du premier affrontement militaire entre les deux pays depuis le bombardement de Tripoli en 1986.

Cet accrochage intervient alors que les relations entre Washington et Tripoli connaissent un regain de tension. Les Etats-Unis accusent la Libye d'avoir construit une usine d'armes chimiques au Sud-Ouest de Tripoli et affirment que la production a déjà commencé.

finée à l'exportation vers les pays arabes et européens. Si quelques-uns de ces laboratoires sont clandestins, lit-on encore, d'autres opèrent au grand jour dans certaines régions, sous la protection des milices auxquelles ils procurent des rentrées confortables en devises.

Pour ce qui est de la propagation de la drogue dans les écoles et les universités, le rapport cite des cas saisissants: tel ce directeur d'école qui a découvert que 65 jeunes filles de son établissement étaient des droguées, ou encore cet instituteur qui se procurait sa dose quotidienne auprès de ses élèves. En conclusion, le rapport propose des mesures de rétorsion draconniennes, qui doivent nécessairement passer par le démantèlement de la filière, « si l'on veut protéger ce qui reste de notre jeunesse », affirme-t-il. (Arabes, janvier)

moins de 30 ans. En moyenne, chaque chef de famille a cinq personnes à sa charge. Mais il va falloir se serrer la ceinture. Sur un marché de l'emploi de plus en plus maigre, la loi de l'offre et de la demande a entraîné une baisse des salaires: on relevait récemment dans les quotidiens des offres d'emplois à 65 dinars par mois.

Devant l'ampleur du problème, une commission a été créée en 1987 pour y faire face. Ses recommandations, rendues publiques il y a un an, préconisaient des mesures restrictives pour l'emploi de travailleurs immigrés. La récente conférence du Yarmouk, dans ses conclusions, propose un programme plus vaste: à long terme, lutter contre l'augmentation galopante de la population, orienter l'enseignement vers les secteurs demandeurs (valorisation des formations techniques), augmenter les investissements dans les secteurs agricoles et industriels. A court et moyen terme, aménager des terrains agricoles et les distribuer à de jeunes diplômés moyennant des prêts à long terme; encourager la création d'industries artisanales; améliorer la qualité des produits jordaniens pour mieux les exporter; limiter la main-d'œuvre étrangère.

Suleiman Sweiss

Les Valente libérées



Marie-Laure et Virginie: leur mère est restée en Libye. Léon Bouvier.

Marie-Laure et Virginie Valente, 7 et 6 ans, ont finalement été libérées de la ville de Tripoli le 31 décembre. Selon les médecins, elles sont en bonne santé. Détenues depuis treize mois au Liban avec leur mère par le Fatah révolutionnaire d'Abou Nidal, leur libération avait été annoncée le 21 décembre par le groupe palestinien. "en cadeau de Noël pour les enfants du monde". Mais depuis, on n'avait pas de nouvelles. Elles ont finalement regagné la France le 29 décembre, après avoir été confiées à Tripoli à l'ambassadeur de France

en Libye. Léon Bouvier. Le colonel Kadhafi avait lui-même demandé la libération des deux fillettes à la veille de Noël. "Je regrette que leur mère et les autres otages n'aient pas été libérés", a-t-il dit.

Outre Jacqueline Valente et sa fille née en captivité, cinq Belges restent encore détenus par Abou Nidal. Tous avaient été capturés le 8 novembre 1987 à bord du Silco, au large de Gaza. Abou Nidal les accuse d'être "à la solde du Mossad". (d'après AP)

FIGURE Le cousin d'Amérique

Le lobby juif aurait-il de la concurrence? Avec ses tweeds discrets, son visage de star hollywoodienne, Edward Said fait un tabac à l'université de Columbia, où il enseigne la littérature anglaise. Cet intellectuel américain, qui se définit lui-même comme "un homme de la gauche qui n'existe pas aux Etats-Unis", est aussi membre du Conseil national palestinien et proche de Yasser Arafat. Il a joué ces derniers mois un rôle capital entre l'OLP, le Département d'Etat et certains juifs américains. C'est lui qui, à Alger, a rédigé les textes de la déclaration d'indépendance de l'Etat palestinien. Il incarne cette "communauté invisible" des 200.000 Palestiniens américains (sur 2,5 millions d'Arabes aux Etats-Unis), ignorés pendant des lustres et qui commencent à se faire entendre depuis l'Intifada.

"En un an, l'Intifada a transformé l'image des Palestiniens aux Etats-Unis, a révélé la solidarité de la diaspora et l'a amenée à intervenir sur la scène américaine", dit Edward Said. Manifestations de rue collectives, pétitions... Mais les cousins d'Amérique se battent surtout sur le terrain de l'information: jamais de ma vie je n'ai participé à autant de réunions, de colloques avec des représentants des

Eglises, des juifs, des responsables de la vie publique américaine", s'exclame-t-il. Longtemps pratiquement interdits d'antenne, les Palestiniens interviennent à la télévision, développent un discours mesuré, relayé par les images de violence israéliennes provenant des territoires occupés. Mieux encore, ils pénètrent petit à petit dans les institutions politiques des Etats ou ils sont suffisamment nombreux.

En 1984, Arafat avait demandé à Edward Said: "Quelles responsabilités stratégiques la diaspora américano-palestinienne est-elle prête à assumer?" Il avait répondu: "La fidélité absolue à la cause palestinienne, mais l'adhésion aux valeurs enseignées par les Etats-Unis".

MANGER

Geneva: blanc comme neige

Pour un peu, on se croirait quelque part entre Venise et Budapest: chocolats suisses, cappuccino, chocolat chaud, pâtisseries européennes — servies avec des gants. Car le nom du Geneva n'a pas été choisi au hasard. Fikri Shreim, propriétaire de ce salon de thé ouvert en septembre, insiste sur l'hygiène toute helvétique de son établissement. "J'adore Genève; la Suisse représente pour moi un havre de paix et de propreté. Il me semble que beaucoup de salons de thé à Amman négligent cet aspect du service. Un décor carrelé où le blanc prédomine, quelques plantes vertes et des vitres immaculées confèrent à l'endroit une ambiance très aérée, peut-être un peu froide. "La clientèle est raffinée, et j'ai

été félicité par des diplomates suisses pour la qualité de notre salon — et pour son nom!"

Petits fours sucrés et salés, sorbets, pâtes feuilletées, crème au beurre, pains au chocolat et croissants sont mûrissants par des cuisiniers libanais. Honorables, mais on retiendra surtout le cappuccino et le délicieux "café Geneva", noir et nappé de crème Chantilly. Un Irish coffee sans whisky, en somme. On le dégustera de préférence en fin d'après-midi ou le vendredi, si l'on aime la compagnie. Et en prévision de l'été, une grande terrasse est en cours d'aménagement côté jardin.

Geneva, Shmeissani, au pied de l'ambassade de Chine (entre les hôtels Commodore et Ambassador). Ouvert de 8h30 à 22h.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Inherit the Wind

De Stanley Kramer, avec Gene Kelly et Spencer Tracy: 1925. Dans une petite ville du Tennessee, un professeur de biologie est arrêté pour enseigner illégalement la théorie de l'évolution de Darwin. D'où le fameux "procès du singe".

Cinéma américain, jeudi 5 et dimanche 8 à 19h00 (en anglais).

La morale de Ruth Halibass

De Volker Schlöndorff, avec Margarete von Trotta (1971): Comédie de mœurs. Halibass, industriel, épouse des disques en permanence. Sa femme, à la dernière mode, dévore les magazines. Leurs enfants sont élevés à la façon anti-autoritaire. Mais Madame veut faire assassiner Monsieur. Une peinture d'une société prospère et sans âme.

Insultant Goethe, mardi 16 à 20 h00 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00, 20h30. Le 5: Cat ballroom. Cool hand Luke, Bonnie and Clyde. On the waterfoot. Quest of fire (La guerre du feu). Le 6: Day of the Jackal, Doctor No (007). Cat on a thin roof. A man and a woman (Un homme et une femme). Wild Bunch. Le 7: Dressed to kill, Dog day afternoon. The Champ. Red. Name of the rose (Le nom de la rose). Le 8: Gipi, Emperor of the North, China syndrome, Robin and Marian. Yankee dole dandy. Le 9: Four feathers. French connection. City lights. The shining. Barefoot contesse (La contesse aux pieds nus). Le 10: In the heat of the night. The graduate. Business as usual. Singing in the rain. The border. Le 11: From Russia with love (007). Jesus Christ superstar. The conversation. Ten commandments part. 1. Ten commandments part. 2.

* bande son en français. Tel: 603901. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Caterpillar", puis 1ère à gauche, 360A.

TELEVISION

"Le grand chemin", de Jean-Louis Hubert, avec Anémone et Richard Bohringer: un petit garçon de la ville est confié par sa mère à un couple de paysans démunis. Il se retrouve perdu dans un monde où il faut qu'un lapin soit tué avant d'être mangé... César 1988 de la meilleure interprétation masculine et féminine. Grand prix de l'Académie du cinéma. A ne pas manquer. (JTV, vendredi 6 à 17h30)

Kenyans take to traditional medicine

By Wona Akute

Traditional medicine is becoming fashionable in Kenyan cities. But thousands of the plants from which the medicines are extracted are endangered by land clearance.

NAIROBI — Njeri Kamau, a 35-year-old accountant in Nairobi, consults a traditional healer when conventional medicine has failed her. When she went to Dr. Githae after suffering from sinusitis for ten years, it was as a last resort.

He gave her a brown powder to boil in water for five minutes and to be taken twice daily before and after meals. Njeri's symptoms cleared after only two days, and now she uses the powder whenever she needs to.

"I hate taking anti-allergy drugs — mainly antihistamines and antibiotics — which make me feel nauseous, drowsy and lethargic," she said. "The brown powder is bitter, but at least it has no side-effects."

Western medicine may still get the lion's share of resources in most developing countries — but traditional, herbal medicines are becoming popular in Kenya again, paradoxically, at the very time that the plants from which the medicines are becoming popular in Kenya again, paradoxically, at the very time that the plants from which the medicines are extracted are becoming rare.

Some 70% of the rural population still depends largely on traditional medicine, but the new twist is its fashionability in the cities.

A leading Kenyan traditional healer, Dr. John Githae, might see up to 400 patients in his Nairobi clinic on Sundays alone — and this may include people from neighbouring Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Burundi.

In an analysis of 21,000 patients who came to the clinic over a one-year period, Dr. Githae and colleagues found that the majority were cases of asthma, bronchitis, hypertension, epilepsy, paralysis, ulcers, sexually-transmitted diseases and infertility.

Treatments were most effective in diabetic, liver and spleen conditions, according to the herbalists. They claimed that over 80% of the patients who had had hospital treatment for diabetes said they no longer needed medicine after following a prescribed dietary and herbal regime.

The clinic's herbalists work closely with conventional health workers, and only prescribe herbs that won't react against the pharmaceutical drugs the patients already take.

They do this because many patients — like Njeri Kamau — prefer to hedge their bets between modern and traditional medicine. She still takes her two children to a doctor in a modern health clinic, only resorting to herbalists if they fail.

According to a survey, Njeri is among a third of Kenya's population of 22 million who believe both in traditional and modern medicine. Another third seek tra-

ditional healers only, while the rest only accept treatment from modern medicine.

Githae says cost and culture account for the renewed faith in traditional medicine. Herbal cures are cheap compared to pharmaceutical drugs — and they appeal to people's cultural heritage.

The colonial period unfairly discredited traditional healers in the Third World as sorcerers, witches or magicians, argues Githae. In fact the healers were traditionally esteemed as doctors, priests and prophets within their communities.

Their periods of training ranged up to 30 years, as they had to serve as apprentices to elderly practising herbalists before they could prescribe herbs on their own.

Throughout Africa, thousands of tropical plants have been found to have potential economic uses as food, drugs, pesticides and industrial raw materials. Medical researchers acknowledge that more than half the world's medicines have their origins in nature — and that a quarter come from tropical forests.

Conservationists and herbalists, however, now fear that this potential could be lost as useful varieties of plants are destroyed through rapid development.

Githae estimates that 10,000 species of medicinal plant are endangered as people rapidly clear brush and forest for cultivation, settlement, timber and firewood.

Unless action is taken soon, he says, many of these species face extinction within 20 years.

Much wood with medicinal properties is burnt to satisfy Kenya's demand for fuelwood or charcoal. According to Kenya's Special Energy Programme, by the year 2000 the demand for fuelwood will be three times the available supply of 16 million tonnes.

The "mucharage" tree is one which faces extinction, according to Githae, because it provides excellent firewood. Growing around the Mau Summit and the Aberdare ranges in Kenya's Central Province, the mucharage bark is used as an anti-diarrhoea drug and a general stimulant; it serves as a fertility drug for women as it stimulates ovulation.

He also cites the "muarobaini" or neem tree as another endangered species, which in coastal areas is said to cure 40 ailments including malaria — especially important now that mosquitoes have started developing resistance to chloroquine.

Githae recommends agro-forestry that will intercrop crops together with medicinal plants, and calls for an alternative source of firewood to counter the indiscriminate felling of medicinal trees — Panos.



A prince, a physician and his assistant, from a 13th-century Arab medical treatise.

The practice of medicine in Islam always has been guided by the principle that good physical health will lead to wholesome living in the ideal triune of body, mind and spirit that the religion of Islam embodies.

Since the earliest days of Muslim civilisation, this basic precept

has given the professions of medicine and pharmacy an important position of dignity and value. Islam's first medical practitioners and scholars, for example, were provided with ample opportunity to study and work. Thus, many were able to realise the full potential of their genius and, in

The ideal tribune of body, mind and spirit

This is the first of a three part article on Arab Islamic Medicine and Public Health written by Dr. Sami K. Hamarneh who is a professor in the School of Public Health at Yarmouk University in Jordan.

consequence, have enriched the history of medicine.

The early physician in Islam was more concerned and involved in his society, its affairs and the issues of everyday living than was his Greek predecessor. He practiced his career with devotion, and applied his clinical and professional procedures with circumspection. His academic training was made available, by and large, without cost or at a nominal fee. Libraries and books were accessible. Intelligent, industrious students from any class of society had access to public or private institutions that provided support, guidance and assistance. They found encouragement and fulfillment in completing their studies, and in carrying out their professional duties and responsibilities.

In the early ninth century, Muslim physicians began producing medical compendiums for teaching and application purposes. As a rule, they classified the healing arts into theory and practice. The instructions at first were based on translations from Indian, Persian and Syriac, but primarily from Greek. Gradually, as new ideas, observations, experiments and discoveries were added and amplified, fundamental precepts emerged that modified and reshaped future Arabic-Islamic medicine and its allied sciences.

Curing the spirit

In this regard, Islamic medicine was not only concerned with bodily infirmities, but with those of the spirit as well. Several treatises and books were dedicated not only to the treatment of the diseases of the body, but also the curing of the spirit *abb al-ruh*. Many such discourses discussed treatment of the mentally ill.

The health professions were maintained and flourished at a high level largely due to the interest and generous patronage of the Muslim caliphs and other notables of Islamic society. Wisely, they encouraged the preservation of the best of the Greco-Roman and Eastern legacies of knowledge. They established educational centres, which included libraries, hospitals, medical schools and botanical gardens. Associated with physicians were artisans and professionals of talent in many fields, who helped carry forward the advancing frontiers of medicine during the golden age of Islam.

The healing arts in Islam were taught in three types of schools or colleges:

- (1) Private tutoring of one or more pupils, under the immediate and direct supervision of a master teacher, being himself a physician or other medical professional.
- (2) Privately-operated colleges,

often founded by eminent and highly reputed physician-educators.

(3) Public colleges, with seminar halls and libraries often connected to hospitals that were operated, directed and supported by the state. Here, practical apprenticeship, bedside diagnosis and clinical observations were conducted.

Significantly, it was in Islam that hospitals, in the true modern sense of the word, were fashioned, following the *Jum' al-Shapur* pattern. Supported by generous endowments from state and philanthropic sources, well-equipped hospitals were organised, which included special wards for both male and female patients, whether poor or rich.

Hospitals created

In previous cultures, priests and clergy had cared for the sick in temples, hospices or lodging houses. Under Islam, for the first time in medical history, hospitals were established in Persia and Iraq and directed and administered by lay physicians and staff members. All management was secular. Discrimination, regardless of creed, ethnic or class affiliations, was forbidden. Staff appointments were made based on competence and qualifications.

In these hospitals were various wards, some designated for medical or surgical patients, others reserved for the mentally ill, and still others for patients with diverse fevers and contagious or serious diseases. Even

the construction of the hospitals followed specific plans regarding architecture, location, and divisional regulations and designs.

What of hospital administration and rules of conduct? It is recorded that when patients were admitted, their names, addresses, age and case history were entered in a registry. Special clothing was provided by the hospital, and the patient's personal garments, valuables and other belongings were kept in safe lockers until dismissal. Care and treatment were directed towards the human being as a whole person, and not as a name with tests and analyses recorded in a ledger.

In the leading hospitals of many great cities, medical teaching and professional activities combined theoretical and practical training. Consultations and dialogues were held in lecture halls and libraries. Doctors came from near and far — to Cairo, Baghdad or other centres — to further their education and gain firsthand experience that would enable them to practice at a higher level of competence. Such centres were referred to, even then, as belonging to "the good old days," when there were daily rounds at the hospital, with bedside care for patients, and afterwards, the gathering of eminent doctors for discussions and consultations.

Special hospitals also were founded to serve the military and their families in peace and war, with special quarters in the battlefield composed of castles, staffed by able physicians.

Cultural change needed to compete with No. 1

Japan strives to improve basic scientific research

By Linda Sieg
Reuters

TOKYO — Japan is out to reform its scientific research establishment into one that produces Nobel Prize winners, not just profits.

After years of striving to catch up with the West, Japanese scientists are convinced their industrial technology, now ranks with the best, a government report published recently said.

What troubles them is the realisation that the very system that helped them catch up in applied technology is ill-suited to achieving ground-breaking scientific discoveries.

"Until now, we had a system aimed at catching up with levels in the U.S. and Europe," said Yoshiro Miki, Director of the Policy Research Division of the Government's Science and Technology Agency. "Now we have more or less caught up."

"But as far as basic science is concerned, Japan cannot be counted as having the highest level of technology in the world," he told reporters before the release of the agency's 1988 policy document last week.

Altering cultural, educational and corporate structures, which do more to stifle than to cultivate individual creative talent, will not be easy, experts said.

"We have lots of creativity," Miki told Reuters. "But before, when we had the goal of catching

up, the social system emphasised bringing people together in a group to achieve the goal more than individual ability.

"Now we don't have such a goal, and we have to do research on our own. So we need a system which mobilises individual capabilities. We need a more flexible system."

Hierarchy stifles
Japanese research laboratories, whether private, government or university, remain tightly bound by hierarchy, seniority and a group ethic, not the best environment to nurture Nobel Prize winners, experts say.

One of the most outspoken critics of that environment has been Susumu Tonegawa, a molecular-biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and winner of last year's Nobel Prize for Medicine.

One of only five Japanese scientists to win a Nobel Prize,

Tonegawa has said he left Japan in 1963 to escape its stifling research system.

"Tonegawa says Japan's system is not a merit system, it's a seniority system," said Howell Hammond, Director of Research and Development at Kodak Japan. "A young person has no opportunity to carry out independent research. He's a cog in a wheel until he serves his time."

Some private corporations that have recently set up their own basic-research institutes hope to change that. Given their capacity to budget for the long term, private companies may be poised for significant ground-breaking work, some experts say.

"U.S. companies have to look at the immediate bottom line, and except for special cases like AT and T (American Telephone and Telegraph) and IBM (International Business Machines), they aren't spending so much on basic research," said Yoshio

Nishimura, editor-in-chief of Nikkei Electronics Magazine.

"Japanese companies are used to taking the long-term view."

Universities resist reform
But Japan's universities, where basic research lags far behind that of their Western counterparts, are likely to be more resistant to reform.

Japanese universities have traditionally viewed their primary task as education rather than research and have disdained accepting funds from the private sector.

"Universities have been completely shut off from both corporate and national policy," Miki said.

"Universities are not interested in collaborating directly (with industry)," said Raul Mendez, Director of the private Institute for Supercomputing Research. Unlike in the United States and Europe where graduate students

are the work horses of basic research, Japan's graduate students are few in number and underfunded. Nor are companies keen to hire them.

"All Japanese society expects of universities is that they produce an adequate level of students. After that companies will train them themselves," Nishimura said.

In the end, reform of the research environment alone is unlikely to suffice to foster scientific creativity.

"It starts way back in grammar school where kids are taught not to interrupt the teacher, but to sit and listen," Hammond said. "It will require a basic cultural change."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

50 years ago the atom split

BERLIN (DaD) — The 50th anniversary of the splitting of the atom has been celebrated at the Hahn-Meitner Nuclear Research Institute in Berlin (West). Fifty years ago, in December 1938, Otto Hahn, the German nuclear physicist and later Nobel Laureate, carried out, with fellow-physicist Fritz Strassmann, the first successful experiment in nuclear fission. Having bombarded uranium with neutrons they created a new element only half as heavy as uranium. Over 100 nuclear power stations in countries all over the world now generate electric power, light and heat on this principle. The same principle is used in atomic bombs and nuclear warheads.

Otto Hahn was not the first scientist to check elements for fission. He did so, incidentally, for many years jointly with Lise Meitner, a physicist who emigrated to Sweden in 1938. Basing their research on Albert Einstein's equation of energy and mass, a number of scientists had already sought to convert nuclei and gleaned important information. They included Emilio Segrè of Italy, James Chadwick of Britain and the French couple, Frédéric Joliot and Irène Curie. In the United States an atom-smashing device was built. But atoms defied even bombardment with nine million volts.

Hahn had more success than his predecessors because he dis-



In 1938, nuclear physicist Otto Hahn, (left), first split the atom. His colleague of many years Lise Meitner (right) (Photo DaD/AP)

pensed with the electric charge of his neutrons. All electrically charged neutrons were repelled by a shield consisting of the powers of attraction of negative and positive components of the atom. The uncharged neutron had free access, so to say. As Irène Joliot-Curie later explained, the movement of the captive neutron in the atomic nucleus grows steadily more violent. The nucleus is elongated, forms a kind of waist in its midriff and bursts into two nuclei of equal size that repel each other and break apart at great speed. The energy liberated in the process was dreadfully demonstrated seven years later when the first atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima.

Edward Teller in America perfected nuclear fission for military use. The devastating effect of the atomic bomb is based on extra neutrons that trigger a chain reaction being released when the ura-

nium atom is split. Hahn and Strassmann only later appreciated this point. They were most reluctant to take part in the technical development of nuclear fission.

Claus Korff
German features

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Women's lib? or a fight for all?

By Mariam M. Shabbi

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Women in almost every traditional culture are taught to rely on men to represent their interests in every sphere of daily life, including medical care, legal representation and financial and social affairs.

Some women's movements work exclusively on women's issues, as is the case in the school of thought led by Dr. Nawal Al Saadawi of Egypt. The other major school of thought tends to view the "liberation of society" as a pre-requisite of "women's liberation" per se. Suppression of women and their rights is viewed as a result of the structure of economy and society which oppresses both men and women.

Several Jordanian women, who have chosen "their way," recently spoke to the Jordan Times and discussed how they view the existing women's liberation movements and assess their personal experiences in the professional sector, and their families' reactions to the way of life they have chosen.

It is a relatively common perception in the Middle East and perhaps elsewhere that in the West "women are liberated" and "free." One of the connotations given to liberation is that along with the easing of educational and social barriers comes the opening of the professional sector for women.

It is far from accurate to say that women in the West — let us define it simply as the Western hemisphere for the sake of practicality — receive an "equal footing" treatment in the professional sector with men.

Consider Switzerland, where women, supposedly by their own choice, were not able to vote in federal elections until 1971 and till today not all cantons allow women to vote in municipal elections. Consider that Britain's Margaret Thatcher is often seen as a novelty because she is a female head of government. Consider that women in influential or directorial positions in the West have been portrayed in the Western press as psychologically different from others; either idolisers of strong fathers or despisers of weak mothers.

"Even in the 'liberated' world, women are by no means proportionately represented in any of the so called professional sectors," says Asma Khadre, an Amman-based lawyer, who has been practising her profession for the last ten years.

"It is unreasonable to think that women in the West have 'made it' because once you have 'the job' that's where the really

rough part begins," says Khadre. "In the West that's where women are getting to. We, in the Middle East are still working on the idea of having a man understand that we actually enjoy and want to work outside the home. And that we could possibly know something they don't."

"Universally women have one struggle, not as women but as people. In some cases women have gone to extremes, only to realise that the domination of one means the oppression of another. This is basically what happened the women's lib movement in the United States. It went to an extreme in order to find the middle road. I don't think this is unhealthy. It is sometimes the course of nature. Cavenen had to feel the heat of the fire before they realised it could hurt them."

In the same vein, says Leila Sharaf, the second woman in Jordan's history to become a minister, "women in the U.S. made their point, thus creating the spark for change."

Buthaina Jardaneh, director of the Federation of Business and Professional Women in Jordan, firmly believes that "the problems that men and women have are basically the same. It is a matter of education, guidance and counselling as well as mentality, which is usually an outcome of a combination of those factors. In the West men have become more accustomed to dealing with what is called 'domestic chores' or a 'woman's duties'. That includes reading bedtime stories to the children and vacuuming. In our part of the world this is still considered a 'shame', and as long as these inhibitions and rigidly defined roles remain neither men nor women will be 'liberated', either socially or professionally."

So where do we differ with women's liberation in the West? We differ with men's liberation. They are two sides of the same coin, incapable of existing without the other.

"Industrialisation has made the woman's role in the workforce and the professional sector an economic and practical necessity," says Muawia Bakri, president of the Arab Women's Graduate Club. "In Britain, industrialisation began in the last century heralding a dramatic change in the role of women. Today women in Britain and in other industrialised nations are still searching for the right 'formula' that enables men and women to interact according to their chosen interests and talents rather than defined roles which are decided by their gender. Men and women in semi-industrialised or developing countries should take a close look at the experi-



ences that people in the West in particular have gone through and try to avoid the less desirable of those experiences. Basically, we in the Middle East should learn from the mistakes of others rather than repeat them."

The family, the husband

"Women who grew up in a home where education for girls was encouraged had a definite advantage over those who were denied that privilege, and thirty years ago that was a very real privilege. My mother had received an education and therefore it was only natural to my parents that I should get an education as well. The man whose mother or sisters have

received an education and work is also much more receptive to the concept of a 'professional woman'." Jardaneh, who has been a working woman for the last thirty years, says she realises that "we, the Arab women, have changed, or rather the roles we have chosen for ourselves have changed, but our men, my husband included, have not changed their ideas of our roles or theirs. Although I have not been the leader of any great rebellion in my home, I believe all women must raise their daughters and sons to be cooperative so that the next generation will not face the same difficulties we did in handling a home and a family."

Muawia Bakri, who is a native of Irbid, is the first woman to

receive a doctorate degree in medical science in her home town. Her family's tradition of education most certainly played a central role in her being sent to Damascus to further her education at the age of eleven. Bakri recalls, "at that time schooling for girls stopped at the primary level in Irbid, so my parents sent me to my uncle in Damascus to finish school. Although I was a boarding student, I saw a lot of my uncle, who was a doctor and decided that the best way for me to serve my people was to become a doctor. Not all of my family were happy with the idea that I wanted to spend so many years studying, but I insisted and the family had to accept. Once I finished my studies I came back to Amman, took a job in a private hospital and got married. My husband was and has always been very supportive of my career. He respects me and values my work a great deal. I don't believe that a married woman can be at ease and fully productive if she has a nagging husband, who is jealous or simply insensitive to her career."

Bakri, mother of two boys, points out that a working wife and mother cannot "have it all". Of course if you work till two or three in the afternoon you cannot go to tea parties or play bridge after lunch. The working mother cannot, responsibly, forget that she has children. Everyday after work I spent the entire time with my children, until it was time for them to go to bed. I often think that although the actual number of hours I spent with my kids is less than other mothers, they were intense and the human-value stories I brought home from my job allowed for a very special mother-child relationship. Both my husband and children are proud that I help others live better lives."

Not all working women have the full support of their families. Asma Khadre, whose job as lawyer often requires her to work very irregular hours, confided that, "my kids don't always appreciate my long hours, they want to see more of me. The sacrifices one has to make in personal life are not always very comfortable. The choice remains with the woman."

Leila Sharaf became an advocate of working women long before she started working. "When I would encourage women, who wanted to accomplish something on a professional level against their families' wishes, my late husband would teasingly say to me 'your telling them to revolt, my dear, your going to create an uproar, please continue.'"



Jurgen Rutters (left), a German Bundestag deputy who specialises in high tech. research, advocates greater German space involvement. On the right:



German scientists from Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) involved in the U.S.-German space project "Galileo" (Photo INP/dpa)

The space challenge

COLOGNE (INP) — What is more essential: space travel or micro chips? This question which is discussed at length in expert circles whenever profitability or priority is at stake was answered by Dr. Jürgen Rutters, a Bundestag deputy belonging to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and a specialist on the high tech. sector with a commitment to both major projects. It has also been decided that the Federal Republic of Germany will participate in the construction of the "Ariane" carrier rocket and the European space shuttle "Hermes", which will take men and a payload up into space as well as the "Columbus" space station — contributing more than 20 billion DM up until the year 2000.

During a discussion on space travel organised by the "Karl Arnold Foundation" in Cologne, Jürgen Rutters had this to say: "The planned German space agency, the revamping of the German aerospace industry and a well-grounded national space programme are intended to strengthen the Federal Republic of Germany's competence and thus secure the success of this policy." The Bonn parliamentarian went on to say that European-American cooperation will be more than a "state venture." Within the bounds of such cooperation, German research accepted the challenge of international competition, which will be even tougher in future. Rutters

called for a strong German space policy: for Tokyo — as well as the two super-powers — were involved to a far greater extent than Bonn in space travel.

The member countries of the European Space Agency (ESA) — including the Federal Republic of Germany — have already given the signal for intensifying European space travel. The West European's target is to establish themselves in future as an autonomous "third force" in space alongside the USA and the USSR. The German Minister for Research, Heinz Riesenhuber, said recently that "the basic decision in favour of the ESA major projects has been taken and we are on the brink of a new European space initiative, which will also provide a new impulse for the aerospace industry in the individual countries."

The bulk of the financing and technical realisation of the ESA programme will be taken over by France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy. The German aerospace industry is bent on achieving further objectives after successful involvement in manned space travel. Together with its European partners, it wants to make Western Europe independent of foreign transport systems. It is intended to achieve the same sort of basis for manned space travel as was achieved with the Ariane carrier rocket for satellite transport. Only in this way, will it be possible to follow up the experiments under weightlessness

which were started in the American space laboratory — with lengthy series of tests.

European industry must be interested in laboratories as well as at some later point, production plants in space as commercially utilisable results are obtained say in material research, pharmaceuticals and earth observation. A European space station will also be needed in future as a basis for satellite and sonde maintenance or as a starting point for missions to far-off planets.

The German institutions and companies involved in space research advocate central management: this is provided by the German Research and Test Centre for Aerospace (DFVLR) based at Cologne-Perz and Oberpfaffenhofen in Bavaria. It is an essential element of the "German NASA". Scientific principles are worked out in Cologne and astronauts — including some from other countries — trained. In Oberpfaffenhofen, the emphasis is placed on the future economic exploitation of the experiments carried out in space. In accordance with the U.S. model, the idea is now to interest companies from the chemical, pharmaceutical, medical technical and material sectors in playing a more active part — this also means contributing to the costs — here in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In-Press

A new fashion philosophy

Suzi Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Issey Miyake is making a home in Paris for the first time since 1968. The French student revolt of that year changed the life of the young Japanese designer who was training in the correct and crabby ways of Paris haute couture. From that time came Miyake's instinct for freedom — that has impregnated his fashion designs for 20 years.

He turned 50 this year, and has the calm that maturity brings. "I feel more relaxed," he says. "I was too deeply involved in fashion. I felt that I had to do something à la mode, and I lost myself. Now I am much more clear about the future. And after this exhibition I feel I have the confidence to continue."

The exhibition "A Un" (a Sanskrit reference to the breath of life) has been running in Paris since October at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, pulling in students who listen to the odd, rhythmic sounds and gaze at the cold wire-drawn figures, who are seated on raked benches turning the focus on you and me, the onlookers.

In Issey Miyake's fashion philosophy, we also participate in his designs, because the starting point of each garment is that it has no intrinsic structure, or shape, and unfolds the figure, or shape, in loosely, creating airy space between body and oil paper raincoat or felt wool coat. These are emphatically not designer clothes expressing status and imposing an image. Nor do they have sexuality or allure in the Western sense.

"My clothes are not a package," he says. "And I don't want to direct anyone how to wear them. When I asked Irving Penn to photograph my clothes, I sent him 80 garments and told him 'don't think that these are the clothes of Issey Miyake. Do it how you like'."

This sublimation of the super-ego, so rare in the fashion world, has resulted in a book in which Penn's graphic pictures and Miyake's succinct words both define and explain a knitted coat shaped into a shell or a gauzy linen dress decorated with a throw made out of fabric from a rice sack.

African tree

"Did you know that there is a tree in Africa when the bark comes off completely," he says of a tubular jersey dress, with dark rings woven into its dusty brown surface. "I wanted to make something woven that was warped like African bark."

The Miyake Design Studio was set up in Tokyo in 1970 and may create up to 300 fabrics for a single collection. Textiles are profoundly researched producing materials that recall or develop traditional Japanese workwear — indigo dyes and woven jute — or push forward the frontiers of modernity for a ballooning nylon raincoat or fake fur pants. Sometimes the two Japans, of the paddy fields and electronic chips, are woven together and fuse as a yellow polyester coat, wrapped in origami folds.

Home is Hiroshima

Issey Miyake, born in Hiroshima and a witness to its catastrophe at the age of 6, habitually wears an open smile. He is dressed in a cream collarless shirt, gray flannel pants and brown laced ankle boots. A shadow crosses his face when he discusses his Japanese identity. Like a well-loved only child suddenly confronted by intrusive siblings, Issey Miyake was disturbed by the arrival of avant-garde

Japanese designers in Paris, where he had been showing collections since 1973.

"I was alone for a long time," he says. "Until 1981. When the others came, I was happy for them. Before that, Japanese people didn't have confidence in themselves. But I didn't really mix with them. It was a different experiment."

Miyake's fashion riposte at that time was to show a collection in which the clothes regressed to the boundaries of his native culture. As they wrapped and tied, unfolded and metamorphosed into different garments on the runway, Miyake received an ovation for confronting so passionately his roots. After that, he returned, equally positively, to graphic modern sportswear, which is his recurrent theme for both men and women.

"I don't think that I can tell you what part of my design is Japanese," he says. "It is a very delicate thing. I was brought up in Japan. I will also live here in Paris, but automatically I am different from the French. Yet design is for human beings, not for nationalities. I work for all people. The European influence over culture is the main thing in fashion. The other is 'ethnic'."

Issey Miyake designs are, in the main, neither extraordinary nor unwearable. In the various price tiers and fashion ranges, sold in his own boutiques and

worldwide, are regular jackets, coats and pants. They attract a clientele of artists and intellectuals, draw extrovert personalities and appeal to those whose irregular body shapes can sink into Miyake's folds.

East meets West

Andy Warhol, the artist Christo, Akira Kurosawa, and Rosita and Tai Missoni are among those who have posed for previous books, especially for "East Meets West," a seminal work published in 1978.

In the 1970s, Miyake established the idea of a fashion show as a piece of art/theater. An audience of 15,000 over six days saw "Issey Miyake and Twelve Black Girls" in Osaka in 1976. Shows in Paris have included modernistic American dancers at the Pompidou centre, their bodies slithering across a well-oiled floor, and men's shows in a swimming pool and a gymnasium. The clothes best express themselves in movement. The "A Un" show is static, although powerfully orchestrated in colour from leaden gray, through stormy reds and blues, to sunny yellow.

He has not, he says, made megabucks from fashion. Yet he is rich enough to think of an apartment on the Ile Saint-Louis, with a view not just of Paris rooftops, but of water, "which I love."

His friends in Paris are from the arts. He speaks warmly and generously (as he does even of those who might be unsympathetic to his style) of Andrée Putnam, fellow Japanese Kenzo, of Sonia Rykiel, of Claude Montana.

"And I admire Yves Saint Laurent because he works so hard," he says. "I put a photograph of Saint Laurent up on my wall because he is so great."

Why, when he is lauded and venerated in Tokyo, should Issey Miyake wish to live in Paris?

"I want to feel again part of European life," he says. "And I want to have a distance from tradition. I have never worn a kimono except when I was a child. I would never design a Miyake kimono, although I have often been asked. Tradition is dangerous for me. It is already perfect. I just like to peek at it."



Shoes of the early Baroque period in Europe. From top to bottom: man's shoe from Lombardy, circa 1640 and ladies shoes from England and France, circa 1700

The culture of shoes

The first shoes worn by man were not intended so much to protect the wearer as to show off his status. Although protection from the elements is now the prime purpose of footwear the desire to display wealth or status remains strong.

By Lale Filoglu

ISTANBUL — Life, says old wisdom, enters through the feet and spreads to the whole body. But the shoes you wear will affect the life you lead. Unconvincing perhaps in today's lifestyles that feature smart suits with sneakers, but still worth remembering before the next visit to the footwear store.

The English observed years ago that only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches and the saying of Publilius Syrus — "you cannot put the same shoe on every foot" — has assumed more meaning than perhaps intended by its first century BC author.

But the human kind's fastidiousness about feet is, legion, with or without quoting the questionable example of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos. This was all too clear in a footwear exhibition held recently at Istanbul's Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art.

The exhibition, 3000 years of Footwear and Man, featured 207 shoe models borrowed from the Bally shoe museum in Schönenwerd, Switzerland, the first and the oldest in the world,

and others from the Turkish museum.

How were people's feet 3,000 years ago? Did many people complain of corns? How did they protect their feet from the ground? The exhibition brought these questions to mind and enabled the viewer to follow the evolution of shoes over the years. Although shoes in some period were used for comfort, they in reality always represented aesthetics and social status. The fact that until about 1600 flat and large shoes were in demand may indicate that not many people then complained of corns.

Japanese experts confirm this. "When the European shoe was introduced to Japan, the need for orthopaedists in Japan increased," says one orthopaedist. When the first pair of shoes was worn some 3,000 years ago, the sole objective of the wearer then was not to protect feet. People living as far back as 14,000 years ago had protected their feet with animal skins and furs.

The first "real" or purpose-made pair of shoes was Egyptian; it was made out of palm leaves. The cheap and comfortable Egyptian sandals now favoured

by tourists could only be afforded then by the pharaohs or their elites. Servants and peasants mostly went around barefoot.

When the shoe with the pointed toe was introduced later in Mesopotamia, present-day Iraq and eastern Turkey, the flat sandals became old fashioned.

In the palaces of the Middle Ages, the length of the shoe tip was designed to indicate social status: the longer the point, the higher the class of the wearer. The tips of shoes became so elongated that the nobles had to lift them by tying them to their ankles.

The shoes with rolled points did not last long, however. A 1371 edict in Zurich, for example, declared that "no-one, neither young nor old, man or woman, is to wear shoes longer than one's feet."



Sandals made of palm leaf strips and bast from ancient Egypt, circa 1st to 3rd century, which are part of the permanent exhibits at the shoe museum in Schönenwerd, Switzerland

But shoes did not just indicate the social status of men. They also became an indispensable part of current fashion and, of course, a means of attracting the opposite sex.

One of the most famous legendary shoes is Cinderella's. The agony women had to go through in the 16th and 17th centuries because of their desire to wear dainty shoes like those of Cinderella is as unbelievable as the fairy-tale itself. The fashion came to a point where ladies with extremely high-heeled, narrow shoes had to use a cane and walk by leaning on their male escort.

As in the past, shoes today are an important part of a woman's effort to make herself attractive. In some areas they are also used to convey messages. Shoes thrown in the arena at the end of a bull-fight in Spain are signs of admiration for the victorious matador.

Paul Weber, director of the Bally Shoe Museum, in an interview said so much fuss is made about the human feet and ways of covering them "because people are linked to life by their feet."

According to him, the shoe-shaped ritual vessels originating in ancient Middle East, Mexico and Rome indicate the system of thought and beliefs of primitive man. Within his feet and footwear the primitive being trod not only the soil of this earth but also endeavoured to seek communion with the spirits that threatened or protected him. "To the shoe he ascribed the power to change the spirit of wrathful, vindictive gods," says Weber.

But, as for an answer to the question of whether a bad corn or sore foot should be ascribed to furious peers or poor manufacture, wait for the second shoe to drop. — Academic File.

EC draws up counter-retaliatory proposal in trade row with U.S.

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Agencies) — European officials put the finishing touches Tuesday on a proposal to strike back at the United States in a trade dispute sparked by a ban on American meat treated with growth hormones.

European Community (EC) spokesman Nico Wegter said representatives of the 12-nation trading bloc likely would be given a proposal Thursday for imposing higher duties on certain U.S. products.

The plan would be offered to counter measures that the United States put into effect Sunday to retaliate against the European meat ban.

Approval of such a proposal would escalate a dispute that already threatens to erupt into a serious trans-Atlantic trade war. The Community's executive body, the European Commission, earlier vowed to slap higher duties on such U.S. imports as walnuts, honey, dried fruit and canned corn.

"The principle of retaliation on our part is already confirmed. It's already there. The only question is how we put that into practical terms," Wegter said.

The final details and imposition date of any such action would have to be approved by the mem-

ber governments.

American officials have raised the prospect of taking additional steps against any counter-measures imposed by the Europeans. Alfred Kingston, U.S. ambassador to the EC, said last week: "I think it's fair to say that you can anticipate further action on our side."

The friction was touched off by the beginning of enforcement Sunday of an EC ban on imports of meat from cattle treated with growth hormones. The trading bloc, also known as the Common Market, wants to prohibit for health reasons all meat from such animals.

"Officially, there is no possibility of accepting meat coming from the United States that has been treated with hormones," Wegter told reporters.

The ban is expected to block imports of about \$100 million worth of beef and beef byproducts from the United States, some of which are used in making pates and sausages. The measure

exempts imports of meat used to make pet food.

U.S. officials contend the use of certain hormones to fatten cattle, a common practice among American farmers, does not pose a health risk.

The prohibition was to have taken effect Jan. 1, 1988, but the trading bloc agreed to a one-year delay. It has since refused U.S. appeals for another, even brief, postponement.

The meat imports represent a tiny portion of the estimated \$166 billion in 1988 trade between the giant trading partners.

In retaliation for the meat ban, the United States applied Sunday trade sanctions worth about \$100 million against European goods.

The measures impose 100 per cent duties on boneless beef, pork hams and shoulders, prepared or preserved tomatoes, soluble or instant coffee, fermented alcoholic beverages containing less than seven per cent alcohol by volume, certain fruit juices, and certain packaged pet food made from grains.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said last week that the EC's ban on U.S. meat was an unfair trade practice and therefore justified the American retaliation.

The additional tariffs are to

remain in effect for the duration of the meat ban.

But Wegter contended the U.S. retaliatory duties were unjustified.

"We are entitled to have our own standards for the quality of our foodstuff," he said.

"If the Americans would like to breed with hormones, it's completely their affair," he said. "The only thing we are asking is that to the extent they are exporting to us, they should certify that there is no breeding with hormones."

He said the EC filed in November a complaint with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to protest the retaliatory U.S. measures.

The EC could adopt the counter-measures against the United States this week, but also could refer the matter to key ministers scheduled to gather later in the month, Wegter said.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher last week appealed for the Common Market and the United States to avoid escalating the dispute.

"We do not want to see a trade war between the European Community and the United States," he said in a radio interview.

Wegter said that last fall, the EC proposed settling the dispute

by boosting imports of high-quality U.S. beef in return for American acceptance of the hormone ban. The offer, he said, was not accepted.

The Canadian government also has refused to go along with the meat ban. Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina have agreed to ship hormone-free meat to Europe.

Delors call for firm line on both parties

In Paris, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said Tuesday that the EC must adopt a firm line in its commercial disputes with the United States.

"I am a great friend of the Americans but in these secondary issues, such as these commercial ones, each side must be firm," he said, referring to an EC-U.S. row over food exports.

"The best way for a couple to maintain each other's respect is to be firm," Delors told Reuters after lunching with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

Delors did not comment on how the conflict might unfold, saying the 12 would decide jointly on action.

Kuwait said to profit \$700m from sale of B.P. shares

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will make a profit of \$700 million by selling more than half of its controversial 21.6 per cent stake in British Petroleum Co. PLC (B.P.), newspapers Wednesday quoted government sources as saying.

They said Kuwait paid an average of £1.637 (\$2.96) for its shares and would sell 790 million of them to B.P. for £2.12 (\$3.84), a net profit of 48.3 pence (88 cents) per share.

The sale, to take effect March 1, will leave the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), Kuwait's London-based overseas investment arm, with a 9.9 per cent stake in B.P. Britain told it in October to cut its stake to that amount.

The Kuwaiti papers said the KIO would make an indirect profit on the sale of \$40 million to \$50 million through currency exchange, making more than \$700 million in all.

The KIO said in London Tuesday, when the deal was announced, that it would make a gross profit of about 16 pence (29

cents) a share on the sale, a total of £126.4 million (\$231 million). Britain's state watchdog Monopolies and Mergers Commission said in October that the size of the KIO shareholding was a threat to British interests.

Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper said Wednesday that B.P. would retain the shares it buys as "treasury shares," reducing its nominal capital.

It said B.P. agreed to pay Kuwait £2.47 (\$4.47) per share, but that Kuwait would receive 12 pence (21.7 cents) per share in profits until March 1 and 58 pence (\$1.05) for returned taxes.

As a government body, KIO is exempt from some British taxes. The paper said that on March 1 Kuwait would have to pay a final £1.05 (\$1.90) per share instalment on the original purchase, leaving the KIO a net profit from the sale to B.P. of £2.12 (\$3.84) per share.

Al Qabas said an American company had made an offer to Kuwait that was only two per cent less than B.P.'s, and that the difference could have been made

up through an earlier sale date. But it said the company, which it did not name, wanted a five-year option to buy the remaining 9.9 per cent of Kuwait's shares, which the newspaper said would have limited Kuwait's chances of making a good profit on them.

B.P. earlier said it had agreed to sell its mineral interests to international mining group RTZ Corp. PLC for £2.4 billion (\$4.4 billion), said to be the biggest deal between two British private firms.

The mineral deal with RTZ excludes B.P. Canada Inc and several minor interests. Analysts said it would help B.P. return to the acquisitions trail and focus on its core oil business.

RTZ chief executive Derek Birkin said the sale was the biggest between two private British companies and described it as a "dramatic and logical advance."

RTZ will assume responsibility for project financing of \$66 million and gain interests in Australia, Latin America and Africa.

Nigeria explains strategy on debts

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria, pledging to make "every effort" to honour its foreign debts, said Tuesday that new loans would help the government deal with a burgeoning budget deficit and huge overseas borrowings.

Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji, minister of state for budget and planning, was explaining details of an austerity budget announced by President Ibrahim Babangida Sunday aimed at cutting imports and boosting farming and small scale industry.

Alhaji said \$2 billion — 37 per cent of foreign exchange revenues, 80 per cent of which come from oil sales — had been allocated to service repayments on Nigeria's foreign debt of \$26 billion.

In naira terms, repayments on external and internal loans in 1989 will nearly double to 13.03 billion naira, compared with 6.92 billion in 1988.

Alhaji said fresh loans from the World Bank and other foreign creditors should narrow Nigeria's projected 1989 budget deficit of 12.88 billion naira, (\$2.43 billion at the pre-budget official exchange rate).

Alhaji said new loans should furnish around six billion naira (\$1.13 billion).

The first tranche of a \$500 million World Bank loan should by now have been released, co-financing of around \$200 million is expected from Japan and an international creditors meeting in London next week could help mobilise more funds.

Alhaji said money from current projects, such as those funded by the United Nations Development

Programme, would provide about another 2.5 billion naira (\$472 million).

He said the remainder would be financed by borrowing from financial institutions.

The federal government will make every effort within available resources to honour the terms of all rescheduled loan agreements," he said.

He said efforts would continue to reschedule existing debt but borrowing from commercial banks and the international capital market would be discouraged.

Budget calculations were based on a rate for the naira of five to the dollar. But the naira fell in value by almost a quarter in 1988 and bankers anticipated a rate of six or seven to the dollar by the end of the week.

Reagan rejects oil import curbs, fee

LOS ANGELES, California (AP) — President Ronald Reagan said Tuesday he has decided against any import fee or other action to curb oil imports, despite possible disruption of supplies from "potentially insecure sources."

The president acted on the recommendation of Commerce Secretary William Verity, who he said reported that import restrictions "would not be cost effective and, in the long run, would impair rather than enhance national security."

Verity's report was the outcome of an investigation requested in December 1987 by the National Energy Security Committee, the president said.

He said Verity concluded "there has been a substantial improvement in U.S. energy security" since the last similar investigation in 1979.

"However, declining domestic oil production, rising oil imports and growing free world dependence on potentially insecure sources of supply raise a number of concerns, including vulnerability to a major supply disruption," the president said.

"The investigation found that the maintenance of U.S. access to sufficient supplies of petroleum is essential to our economic security, foreign policy flexibility and defence preparedness," he said.

"Given these factors, the secretary of commerce found that petroleum imports threaten to impair the national security."

He said that, in deciding not to recommend any import restrictions, Verity took into account the U.S. administration's programme to improve energy security.

In particular, Reagan cited decontrol of oil prices and elimination of allocation controls as actions his administration has taken to strengthen the domestic oil industry.

"The strategic petroleum reserve contains over 555 million barrels, compared to 108 million barrels eight years ago," he said.

"Today, the nation is far less vulnerable to an oil supply disruption than in 1973 or 1979."

"Despite these improvements, important energy security concerns remain," the president said, citing rising oil consumption, declining U.S. crude production and rising oil imports.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday Jan. 4, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	476.0	478.0	French franc	78.8	79.2
Pound Sterling	868.0	872.3	Japanese yen (for 100)	383.6	385.5
			Dutch guilder	238.4	239.6
Deutschemark	269.2	272.7	Swedish crown	78.1	78.5
Swiss franc	317.1	318.7	Italian lira (for 100)	36.5	36.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	128.3	128.9

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Institutional trading dominated another lacklustre day for Australian stocks in a market hampered by the poor performance of futures contracts. The All Ordinaries index fell 9.3 to 1,470.7.

TOKYO — Bullish sentiment, for 1989 boosted a wide range of prices. The Nikkei index closed at a record 30,243.66, up 84.66, in the half-day session.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed at their highest levels since July 1988, with the Hang Seng index up 30.14 to 2,736.83.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed slightly lower after fluctuating narrowly in quiet trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 3.54 to 1,030.69.

BOMBAY — Prices fell on a broad front amid fears that the budget for 1989/90 to be presented next month might not offer incentives to investors.

FRANKFURT — Shares nosedived on news that U.S. fighters downed two Libyan jets, knocking prices off post-crash highs. The DAX index closed up 5.75 at 1,365.08.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady in selective trading, with interest centred on bearer shares and participation certificates. The Swiss index fell 0.2 to 954.5.

LONDON — Shares were back near the day's highs in moderate late business, boosted by Wall Street's early advance and the dollar's rise despite news that U.S. planes downed two Libyan jets. By 1603 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 8.3 at 1,791.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks extended early gains at midday as U.S. bond prices rose. Analysts said the rally was surprising in view of the Libyan incident. The Dow was up at 2,150.

'Africa lacks democracy, accountability'

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said Tuesday the continent's economic recovery has been hampered by "a pervasive lack of democracy and accountability."

In a paper titled "Africa's Economic Recovery" presented to 100 African and non-African economists, the ECA said political institutions in Africa "encourage a narrow base for the decision-making process."

The economists are attending an ECA-sponsored one-week workshop to review Africa's economic problems.

"Leadership in Africa tends to be basically self-serving at all levels, with little or only minimal accountability," said the ECA, which has its headquarters in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

The ECA paper said that because of the lack of democracy individuals in private and public sectors have "not been effectively accountable, leading to widespread allegations of corruption and misappropriations."

"Physical and human resource mobilisation, effective social debate to formulate and implement relevant policies and programmes and the legitimacy of the state

require broad popular participation in decision-making at all levels," the ECA said.

It also noted that traditional institutions have broken down and the modern ones like bureaucracy, military and political parties do not perform effectively.

Frequent changes of leadership, the ECA said, also lead to "drastic changes of policies."

The ECA also criticised the World Bank's and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) structural adjustment programmes in Africa since 1980, saying they resulted in "falling per capi-

ta income, rising unemployment... and reduced growth."

Structural adjustment programmes usually require economic belt-tightening by nations receiving World Bank or IMF aid and poor, debtor nations frequently complain that the measures often lead to hardships and civic unrest.

"The IMF and World Bank programmes have failed to achieve economic recovery or transformation in Africa because they deal with outward appearances, symptoms and surface manifestations of the African economic crisis," the ECA said.

Economists, bankers predict difficulties to meet revenues in new Saudi budget

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia, hit by a depressed oil market, faces an uphill battle in attaining the 10 per cent revenue hike projected in its 1989 budget, bankers and economists said Tuesday.

A royal decree late Monday outlining the budget said that despite a fall in oil revenues over the last few years, the kingdom's total income in 1989 would rise to 116 billion riyals (\$30.9 billion).

Spending would remain steady from last year at 141 billion riyals (\$37.6 billion), with the government bridging the gap by issuing treasury bonds for a second year in a row.

"The basic figures are a little disappointing," said a banker in Riyadh. "Given the situation in the oil market it seems odd to be forecasting an increase in revenue."

A breakdown of how the increased revenue would be raised is expected to be announced in

the coming few days. A finance ministry statement Tuesday gave no further revenue details.

But economists said it was hard to say where the revenue would come from.

An agreement ironed out in November by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna aims to cut oil output and raise prices to \$18 per barrel.

Under the pact, Saudi Arabia would cut production to just over 4.5 million barrels per day (b/d) from December levels of around seven million b/d.

Economists said that were oil prices to reach \$18 a barrel, the highest net income the government could hope for was around 67 billion riyals (\$18 billion), after deducting the value of oil sold domestically, production costs and special price deals.

This was slightly less than the 68.9 billion riyals (\$18.4 billion) in oil revenues projected in last

year's budget.

But oil industry sources said an \$18 barrel was optimistic and even Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah predicted Tuesday prices would range between \$15-\$18 by the end of the year. Industry sources do not see oil averaging more than \$15.

Bankers said the government might choose other means of revenue raising, such as increasing tariffs or other taxes.

But they said that if oil prices remained weak, Saudi Arabia may have to increase non-oil revenues substantially to boost total income from last year's 105 billion (\$28 billion).

The 1988 budget projected that 36.4 billion riyals (\$9.7 billion) would be raised from foreign

investments, tariffs, income tax and profits from state oil concerns.

Some taxes may be raised but King Fahd has already unequivocally ruled out a royal devaluation as another way of increasing royal-dominated income from oil exports, paid for in U.S. dollars at a current rate of 3.75 riyals to the dollar.

Bankers said the kingdom looked set to finance its deficit by a combination of drawing down its foreign reserves and issuing more bonds beyond the 25 billion riyal (\$6.7 billion) limit set in the budget statement.

"But the more they borrow from the market, the more they build a debt servicing requirement for the future," said one banker.

Izvestia begins to carry foreign ads

MOSCOW (AP) — The newspaper Izvestia, which for decades thundered against capitalists in the columns of small, gray type, dressed up some of its pages with green Tuesday and opened them for the first time to foreign advertisers.

Two pages of ads from European and U.S. companies were the first in a weekly effort "to give Western businessmen the possibility to enter direct dialogue with future Soviet partners who are trying to set up contacts with the foreign market," the government newspaper said on its

front page.

In announcing an agreement Oct. 15 to cooperate on the advertising project with West Germany's Burda magazine, Izvestia called advertising the "engine of trade."

The French company Pechiney bought all of page five in the eight-page edition, proclaiming, "French perfumes, French wines and the French effort to find comfort have been well-known to you for a long time. Now you have a chance to get more closely acquainted with industrial France."

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Chinese police hustle an African student to safety in Nanking

Sino-African row spreads to Wuhan

PEKING (AP) — Several foreigners Wednesday told of violence directed at African students in the central city of Wuhan, the fourth city in which such outbreaks have been reported in the last 10 days.

The violence occurred Saturday at the central China Polytechnic College in this city about 1,050 kilometres south of Peking, said a student from Gabon and a U.S. teacher, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Peking, African students boycotted classes at the Peking Languages Institute Wednesday, a day after Chinese demonstrated against an alleged attack by a black student on a Chinese woman.

"Brothers, let us unite and fight for dignity," said a leaflet distributed by Africans at the institute. "Black is beauty."

In Wuhan, Chinese students put up posters reading, "black devils go home" on the walls of the foreign dormitory at the college, said the Gabonese, who attends Hubei Medical College.

About 300 Chinese students also roamed the campus in Wuhan Saturday, throwing rocks at the African students' dormitory, said the student, who was at the college visiting friends.

School authorities responded Sunday by suddenly taking the college's 12 African students on a trip to the interior of Hubei province, where Wuhan is located, said the Gabonese student.

As of Wednesday, the African students still had not returned to Wuhan, he said.

Other schools responded by cancelling African parties and urging dark-skinned students not to leave campus, said the Gabonese student and a U.S. teacher.

Last week, thousands of Chinese youths demonstrated in Nanjing following a clash between African students and Chinese at Hehai University over Chinese women.

Chinese authorities say the brawl occurred when two African students hit a gatekeeper who refused to allow two Chinese women to attend a party organised by African students.

Official Chinese news reports have said 11 Africans and two Chinese were injured.

Torture denied

On Tuesday, Xu Xiaoxun, an official of the Jiangsu provincial government in Nanking, denied allegations from African students and diplomats that Chinese forces attacked and tortured Africans at a guest house Saturday.

African students and a diplomat from Benin contended that Chinese militia members gave electrical shocks to African students on their faces, backs, genitals during the attack.

Premadasa forms interim cabinet

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa formed a 20-strong interim cabinet Wednesday, urging ministers to ensure that essential services disrupted by recent rebel violence worked at peak efficiency.

Nine members of the old government were dropped. Seven were asked to resign because their constituencies did not return a majority for the ruling party in last month's presidential election and two more resigned on health grounds.

Finance and Planning Minister Naina Marikar was one of the two who resigned on health grounds. One of the two women in the old cabinet, Wimala Kannangara, also quit.

Premadasa said he would act as prime minister until parliamentary elections are held Feb. 15.

The constitution empowers the president to exercise, perform

and discharge the powers, duties and function of the prime minister. "I have accordingly decided to function in the office of prime minister until the conclusion of the general elections," he said.

Premadasa served as prime minister to President Junius R. Jayewardene, who stepped down after 11 years in office. Premadasa resigned as prime minister before taking the oath as president.

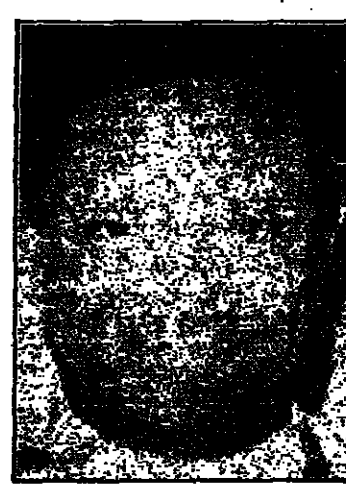
Jayewardene dissolved parliament Dec. 20, a day after the presidential election, and set Feb. 15 for general elections.

Besides defence, Premadasa also retained the portfolios of

local government, housing and construction, highways, finance and planning, plan implementation, plantation industries, state plantations, provincial councils and manpower mobilisation.

The former chief of the joint operations command, General Cyril Ranatunga, was appointed defence adviser to the president. Lalith Athulathmudali's National Security Ministry, responsible until a year ago the fight against Tamil separatist guerrillas, was scrapped. Athulathmudali was given the Food Ministry in addition to the trade and shipping portfolios he handled earlier.

The interim cabinet will function until a new government is formed after the February election. Premadasa has expressed confidence his ruling United National Party will retain power. The interim cabinet decided at



Ranasinghe Premadasa

its first meeting to draw up a code of conduct for future parliamentarians "so as to help them to lead a clean life," new Information Minister Festus Perera told a

news conference.

Perera said the cabinet in future would start proceedings with prayers.

"We will pray to our gods in our own minds before every cabinet meeting," Perera said, noting that there were Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians in the interim government.

He said the cabinet noted that there had been no major violence since Premadasa was elected president in the Dec. 19 poll.

Police reported seven political killings overnight in provincial areas and said they suspected gunmen of the leftwing People's Liberation Front.

The front, composed of members of the majority Sinhalese community, described the election as fraud and attempted to disrupt it with attacks on polling stations, election workers and voters.

Security Council remains stalled over Namibia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A stalemate continued Tuesday in Security Council efforts to create a U.N. Namibia peacekeeping force because of a clash over costs.

On Saturday, hours before the 1989 council was formed, the 15 council members failed to create the force because of a deadlock between the five permanent members and the 102-nation Non-Aligned Movement, which had six members on the council.

The permanent members — each with veto power over any council resolution — are the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

All five were prepared to adopt a resolution which recognised "progress in the South-eastern Africa peace process" and requested the secretary-general "to identify tangible cost-saving measures."

They say the \$700-million cost for 7,500 soldiers and 2,000 police and support staff should be reduced to around \$400 million by drastically reducing personnel. The force of 9,500 is spelled out in a 1978 council plan for the independence of Namibia.

But non-aligned nations opposed the cost-cutting and introduced resolutions diluting the language of economy measures.

They argued that the situation in Namibia had deteriorated and South Africa had increased military, police and "killer elements" there in order to interfere in free elections scheduled for Nov. 1.

They argued that the original contingent of 9,500 U.N. peacekeepers and monitors for Namibia should not be reduced now because they are needed to

maintain security and confidence of the Namibian people and to prevent South African interference in free elections.

On Dec. 22, South Africa signed an agreement granting independence to Namibia, or South-West Africa, which it has governed for 73 years.

At the same time, Angola and Cuba also signed an agreement providing for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops by July 1, 1991. About 3,000 troops are to be withdrawn Jan. 10, according to the Angolan mission.

On Tuesday, the new president of the Security Council, Malaysian Ambassador Ismail Razali, met Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the council's work and formation of the peacekeeping force. Five new members of the council will have to be briefed

before a formal meeting can decide on the new force.

It is to be deployed by April 1 when the independence plan goes into effect.

U.N. diplomats said the situation was "back to square one" and that Razali would be holding informal consultations this week in an effort to break the deadlock.

The council gained one more non-aligned member this year, Malaysia, which could stiffen resistance to any cutback in the force.

As Security Council consultations broke down Saturday over conflicting demands over funds, U.S. Ambassador Patricia M. Byrne and British envoy Sir Crispin Tickell both blamed the Non-Aligned Movement for obstructing progress. But Hidipo Hamutenya, spokesman for the Southwest

African People's Organisation, which has been fighting South African forces in Namibia, supported the Non-Aligned Movement.

"The situation has deteriorated in the last 10 years with buildup of South African forces... now the U.N. needs a credible military team to go in and clear the mess," he said.

He said the movement members do not believe South Africa has undergone any kind of change of heart in signing the Namibia agreement and simply wants to cut losses and reduced its overstretched defences over Angola and Namibia.

In addition to the five permanent members, the Security Council includes Brazil, Canada, Finland and non-aligned Algeria, Colombia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal, Senegal and Yugoslavia.

North subpoenas Shultz, Weinberger

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North has made good a promise to call top U.S. officials to testify in his upcoming Iran-contra trial, issuing subpoenas for Secretary of State George Shultz and other key figures after earlier seeking appearances by Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Other important figures in the White House, State and Defence Departments and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) also were subpoenaed by North Tuesday along with former Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and ex-White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, U.S. officials and informed sources said Tuesday.

President Reagan, who has called North a national hero, was served with a subpoena last week along with President-elect Bush.

"We have received subpoenas for a number of department officials including Secretary Shultz," State Department spokeswoman

Phyllis Oakley said in an interview.

North, a retired marine lieutenant colonel who served in the White House, is due to stand trial beginning January 31 on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government, theft of government property and other alleged felonies stemming from the Iran-contra scandal.

North was a central figure in the scandal involving U.S. arms to Iran in an attempted exchange for U.S. hostages in Lebanon and the possibly illegal diversion of arms sale profits to Nicaraguan contra rebels.

His charges include conspiring with former White House national security adviser John Poindexter and two arms dealers, Albert Hakim and Richard Secord, a retired air force general, to divert of \$12 million to the contra.

North, who loudly proclaims his innocence, had promised to call



Oliver North

the country's highest officials to testify for the defence. He has said he assumed the president knew of his actions during the secret operations in 1985 and 1986.

North's lawyer, Brendan Sullivan, told reporters last week the defence had an obligation to issue a subpoena "for every person who has relevant information."

Seoul cool to new Pyongyang offer

SEOUL (AP) — South Korean officials reacted coolly Wednesday to a recent North Korean proposal for unification talks involving political and religious leaders.

Kim Dae-Jung, head of South Korea's largest opposition group, described the North Korean proposal as impractical, while other opposition party leaders called it another political tactic "out of impure motives."

Government party officials rejected the proposal, saying it was aimed at causing unrest in South Korea.

On Sunday, North Korean President Kim Il Sung called for a political conference with South Korean leaders to discuss reunification of the divided Korean peninsula.

The North Korean leader proposed that the meeting be held in Pyongyang and he invited South

Korean President Roh Tae-Woo, leaders of three main opposition parties, Cardinal Kim Su-Hwan, the top Roman Catholic leader in Seoul, and two dissident leaders, Mun Ik-Hwan and Paek Ki-Wan.

Kim Il Sung did not mention Roh's repeated proposals for summit talks and invited him as head of the governing democratic justice party.

The two Koreas in recent months have traded fresh proposals for dialogue — sports talks, political and military talks on arms reductions and student talks — in addition to ongoing parliamentary talks.

South and North Korean lawmakers held a series of talks last year, with the latest meeting held last Thursday at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Talks between the two countries have been held on and off since the early 1970s.

Gandhi killing plotter one step near gallows

NEW DELHI (R) — A Sikh civil servant convicted of plotting the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi lost another battle against his death sentence Wednesday, bringing him and the surviving killer closer to the gallows.

The Indian supreme court rejected a request by Kehar Singh, 54, for judicial examination of a Sikh extremist in police custody who claimed to have fresh evidence on the 1984 killing.

Satwant Singh, 24, Gandhi's bodyguard, when he and another Sikh killed her, has already lost several bids to delay his execution. Sarwant and Kehar are expected to hang soon.

After a 30-minute hearing, the court rejected the petition filed by Ram Jethmalani, India's best-known criminal lawyer.

Former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan, who is assisting Jethmalani, told reporters: "Nothing is lost."

"In judicial processes there is no finality. Let's see if we will get relief from the court tomorrow."

Jethmalani has filed a special petition against President Ramaswamy Venkataraman's rejection of Kehar Singh's mercy plea and it will be heard Thursday.

Lawyers for Satwant Singh are also preparing more petitions in a last minute bid to delay the executions, originally scheduled for last month.

Kehar claims his conspiracy

conviction was based on circumstantial evidence.

Sarwant has not denied killing Gandhi, but wants a court to record the statements of other security guards who wounded him and killed the second assassin, Beant Singh.

The assassination was in revenge for Gandhi's dispatch of the army to attack the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, to flush out separatists there.

More than 1,200 people, including many innocent devotees trapped inside the temple, were killed.

Authorities in Punjab, the country's only Sikh majority state, have put paramilitary and police forces on top alert after Sikh extremists fighting for an independent homeland threatened retaliation if Kehar and Sarwant were hanged.

The militant All India Sikh Students Federation said it would call strikes across Punjab and halt traffic if the two go to the gallows.

"We will create disturbances. We will not allow any political activity," it said in a statement in Punjab.

Sikh separatists have stepped up their armed campaign. More than 2,500 people were killed last year, around twice as many as in 1987. In the first three days of the new year, at least 28 people died.

Shultz backs rights conference in Moscow

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz has recommended that President Ronald Reagan accept a Soviet proposal to hold a human-rights conference in Moscow in 1991, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

If Reagan takes Shultz's advice — based on the Soviets' wholesale release of political prisoners and rising emigration figures — the stage also will be set for a new round of East-West negotiations to reduce conventional troops, tanks and artillery in Europe.

The start of talks between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact had been waiting completion of a 35-nation review in Vienna of Human Rights in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe.

Apparently, the Reagan admini-

nistration has found enough progress in the Soviet record to close the conference in Vienna and move on.

Shultz is due to see Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Paris Sunday. They will be attending a conference on the spread of chemical weapons.

The State Department last Friday credited the Soviets with "significant progress" in their treatment of political prisoners.

The Soviets have released more than 600 political prisoners in the last two years, including all the monitors of the 1973 Helsinki Agreement, which held out the promise of an improvement in the human-rights situation, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Friday.

Activists declare war on low flights

BONN (AP) — Ear-splitting military training flights over densely populated West Germany became a major social issue in 1988 amid a series of warplane crashes. Opponents vowed Tuesday to step up their campaign this year.

"This self-imposed threat from the skies must end. Our populated areas must above all be safe," said Erwin Horn, a federal lawmaker with the opposition Social Democrats.

Earlier Tuesday, NATO pilots resumed tactical flights over West Germany following a three-week moratorium adopted in memory of the victims of a horrific Dec. 8 crash of a U.S. military jet in the northern city of Remscheid. Five West Germans and the American pilot died in the fiery accident.

Critics insist on more than a moratorium. They say they will step up pressure for NATO forces in West Germany to abandon low-level training flights, in which planes fly at altitudes as low as 75 metres.

"We want military low-level flights to stop permanently," said Werner Mey, head of the nationwide Umbrella Protest Organisation "coordination of opponents of low-level flights."

"There will be a whole spectrum of (protest) actions this year," Mey said in a telephone interview from his home near Mainz.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

India air crash caused by negligence

NEW DELHI (AP) — Reports submitted to an investigating committee indicate the pilot of an Indian airlines jetliner that crashed and killed 133 people occasionally forgot to do landing checks, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The Statesman, a Calcutta-based daily, also said the co-pilot did not have a valid flying license. The newspaper gained access to technical reports submitted to a committee appointed by the civil aviation ministry to find out what caused the Oct. 19 accident. Details of the inquiry will be submitted to the federal government Jan. 31, the newspaper said.

Philippine boat disaster claims 16

MANILA (AP) — A motor launch carrying more than 170 people sank in the central Philippines, killing at least 16 people, the coast guard said Wednesday. Another 45 people were reported missing. Lt. Edmund Lustre, coast guard operations chief in Iloilo, said the cargo vessel Jem II sank Tuesday off Romblon Island, about 240 kilometres southeast of Manila. He said a coast guard rescue team sent to Romblon reported 113 people had been rescued and that the bodies of 16 people had been recovered. Lustre said most of the passengers were believed to have been high school students en route from Romblon to Panay after the Christmas holidays.

Mudslides leave eight dead in Venezuela

CARACAS (AP) — Unseasonably heavy rains swelled rivers and caused mudslides that left eight people dead and 553 homeless along the central Venezuelan coast, authorities said Tuesday. The mudslides started Friday night in the mountains north of Caracas along the Caribbean sea, after several days of rain, according to Freddy Paris, head of Venezuela's civil defense force. Poor neighbourhoods along the banks of creeks suffered the heaviest damage, with shacks swept away. So far, authorities have counted 126 houses destroyed and 247 severely damaged, said Paris. Eight bodies were recovered over the weekend from beneath the rubble and mud, said Paris.

Gunmen wound Rome prison chief in ambush

ROME (R) — The deputy director of Rome's Rebibbia prison was shot and wounded Tuesday in an ambush in the town of Tivoli east of Rome, police said. They said Egidio de Luca was hit in the legs as he got out of his car. He was taken to hospital where doctors said his life was not in danger.

Suspected rebels stage attack in Peru

HUANCAYO (R) — Suspected leftist guerrillas caused an estimated \$30 million losses in a dynamite attack at Peru's main metallurgical plant, a spokesman for the operators said Tuesday. The attack on New Year's eve and New Year's day destroyed three diesel locomotives used transport copper, zinc, lead and silver processed at the state-owned La Oroya plant to the Pacific Port of Callao, the spokesman said. He said Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) guerrillas waging a sabotage campaign aimed at crippling Peru's ailing economy were believed responsible. No injuries were reported at the plant, which is 200 kilometres east of Lima.

Two die, 20 injured in shantytown troubles

DJIBOUTI (AP) — Two people died Tuesday and about 20 were injured, including two policemen, when violence erupted between authorities and residents of Balbala, a shantytown on the outskirts of this northeast African capital. Djibouti radio reported. Violent confrontations lasted more than three hours and involved police and some of the inhabitants of Balbala who were opposing the demolition of their modest homes, mostly made of boards, cardboard and sheets of corrugated iron. The first incidents broke out in the morning, but did not become serious until the afternoon. Police used tear gas to break up the crowds, and when some policemen were stabbed, they used their guns. The demonstrators burned two police cars. The situation was not brought under control until army units were deployed. The Balbala shantytown houses between 30,000 and 50,000 poor people.

Capsized boat built for 15

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — The launch which capsized off Rio on New Year's eve killing at least 53 people was originally designed to carry just 15 people, the builder said Tuesday. "The boat was made for private use, not tourism, and was designed to carry 10 passengers and five crew members," said Eliza Bezerra, the owner of Ceara Naval Industry which built the boat 19 years ago. Police and boatowners dispute the number of passengers on the Bateau Mouche IV. Police said there were 149 while the owners said only 124 were on board. About 40 people were rescued and 30 were missing. The owners said the boat was licensed to carry 150 passengers and that the accident was caused by passengers packing the upper decks and running to one side of the boat as it laboured through heavy waves.

COLUMN 8

Americans, Vietnamese set out to rediscover giant ape

BANGKOK (AP) — Scientists are preparing to excavate a remote cave complex in Vietnam to piece together a portrait of the largest known ape — a three-metre-tall primate which died out more than 200,000 years ago, expedition members said. The excavation, planned for Jan. 4-28, is being billed as the first field research project involving scientists of the United States and Vietnam since the beginning of their war in Indochina. Dr. Russell Ciochon said he and three other Americans would join about 10 Vietnamese scientists at the limestone cave about 120 kilometres southwest of Hanoi where there are known remains of the "gigantopithecus," an ape known only from sites in southern China and Vietnam. Despite some earlier research by Vietnamese, East German and French scientists, very little is known about the giant, which is related to the orangutan, chimpanzee and gorilla. Only jawbones and teeth of the animal have been uncovered to date but Ciochon said the team hopes to find more complete remains in the large cave, which served as a weapons storage depot and bomb shelter during the Vietnam war. "One thing we know about it is that it was very big," Ciochon told reporters. The animal probably was a vegetarian, walked on four legs, lived on the ground, weighed about 350 kilograms and became extinct 200,000 to 300,000 years ago, the Americans said.

Nude models infuriated in China

PEKING (R) — China removed five paintings from its first exhibition of nude art after angry models complained about their portraits being viewed by thousands of curious onlookers. Two of the female models have threatened to sue organisers of the hugely popular show at the China Art Gallery, claiming their marriages and reputations are threatened, the China Daily reported. The withdrawals followed a one-day strike by nude models at Peking's top Central Academy of Fine Arts who said artists had "betrayed" them by putting the paintings on show. The paper quoted organisers as saying the five most contentious paintings would be removed and replaced. "The academy had promised anonymity to the models since many Chinese people view it as dishonourable for young women to be nude models," the paper said. Tickets for the two-week show are selling for two yuan ten times the usual admission charge to the gallery.

Free burial makes drinkers beware

ORLANDO (AP) — Some may call it a publicity gimmick, but Bob Neel believes that revelers find his annual offer to pay funeral costs for anyone killed in a drunken driving accident on New Year's Eve a sobering thought. For the past 10 years, Neel's Funeral Home and cemetery has offered a free casket, funeral service and burial to anyone killed in a drunken-driving accident during the end-of-year celebrations. So far, no one has collected, and Neel thinks his offer has made a difference. "I can't prove it with statistics, of course, but I get so many calls and letters you wouldn't believe," Neel said Friday. "They tell me it's made them more aware of drinking. I know it has me and my friends. The publicity, I'm sure, has done some good." Neel, chairman of Woodlawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home, started the practice in 1979, and he believes he was the first to do so.

Gamblers must be 'Creme de la creme'

MONTICELLO (R) — Monte Carlo's refurbished casino reopened Friday without the slot machines blamed for lowering the tone of the world's most famous gambling house. Restoration work costing \$6.5 million was aimed at driving away casually dressed tourists and drawing back the 18th century casino's aristocratic clientele. Andre Saint-Mieux, former chairman of the Societe Des Bains De Mer (SBM), which owns the casino, said the intention of the redecorating, which took five months, was "to rid the casino of people in jeans and tennis shoes." Only a few luxury versions of the slot machines, installed over the 30 years, were saved from the scrap heap.